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FBIS-NES-96-072 CONTENTS *12 April 1996*

NOTICE: An * indicates material that may not be disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

International Affairs: Cairo Declaration on Pelindaba Treaty Issued *[MENA]* 1
International Affairs: AFCONE To Monitor Pelindaba Treaty *[Johannesburg Radio]* 1
International Affairs: Algiers, 52 Others Sign Pelindaba Treaty *[Algiers Radio]* 2
International Affairs: Lesotho Signs Pelindaba Treaty *[Maseru Radio]* 2
International Affairs: Morocco Signs Pelindaba Treaty *[Rabat TV]* 2
International Affairs: Musa, IAEA's Blix Comment on Pelindaba Treaty *[MENA]* 2
International Affairs: Musa Comments on Signing of Pelindaba Treaty *[Cairo Radio]* 3
International Affairs: Musa Remarks Further on Pelindaba Treaty *[MENA]* 4
International Affairs: Libyan Delegation Releases Statement on Nuclear Weapons *[MENA]* ... 4

Inter-Arab Affairs

Inter-Arab Affairs: Arab League Condemns Israeli 'Aggression' Against Lebanon *[MENA]* ... 4
Inter-Arab Affairs: Arab, African Statement Backs Libya on 'Crisis' With West *[MENA]* 5

Palestinian Affairs

Palestinian Affairs: DFLP Condemns 'Zionist Air Raid,' U.S. Support *[IRNA]* 5
Palestinian Affairs: Commentary—U.S. Behind Israeli 'Aggression' *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 5
Palestinian Affairs: Quray' Criticizes Obstruction of Deputies at Gaza Crossing *[Jericho VOP]* 6
Palestinian Affairs: 'Abd-Rabbuh Opposes PNC Meeting, Says No Talks With Hamas *[Jerusalem TV]* 7
Palestinian Affairs: PFLP, DFLP Hail Formation of Dialogue Committee *[Jericho VOP]* 7
Palestinian Affairs: 2 PFLP Leaders Return To Participate in PNC Session *[AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH 9 Apr]* 7
Palestinian Affairs: 'Sharp Differences,' Division Reported in PFLP Leadership *[AL-BILAD 9 Apr]* 8
Palestinian Affairs: DFLP's Hawatimah Warns of Intifadah Against 'Arafat *[AL-BILAD 9 Apr]* 8
Palestinian Affairs: Hamas Statement Responds to 'Arafat 'Accusations' *[JMCC PRESS SERVICE 11 Apr]* 8
Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Relieves PLA Commander of Post *[AL-RA'Y 11 Apr]* 9
Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Receives Jordanian Envoy, Other Officials *[Gaza TV]* 9
Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Arrives in Bethlehem Governorate From Ramallah *[Jericho VOP]* 9
Palestinian Affairs: PA Releasing Hamas, Islamic Jihad Detaineees *[Jerusalem Radio]* 10
Palestinian Affairs: Quray' Says Legislative Council's Sessions 'Successful' *[Jericho VOP]* .. 10
Palestinian Affairs: Musa Abu-Marzuq Interviewed in U.S. Jail *[London AL-MAJALLAH 7-13 Apr]* 10

ARAB AFRICA

Egypt

Egypt: Paper Notes Mubarak's Support for Libya, Sudan, Iraq *[MENA]* 14
Egypt: Paper—Egypt Ultimate Loser in Anti-Sudan Sanctions *[AL-WAFD 6 Apr]* 14
Egypt: Paper Lauds Egypt's Opposition Anti-Sudan Sanctions *[MENA]* 15
Egypt: U.S. 'Escalatory Policy' on Libya Criticized *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 6 Apr]* 15

Egypt: Egyptian Carrier Begins Transporting Libyan Pilgrims *[MENA]* 17
Egypt: Contacts Said Under Way To Extradite Fugitives From Jordan *[MENA]* 17
Egypt: Opposition Paper Criticizes Israel's Action in Lebanon *[MENA]* 17

Libya

Libya: Foreign Minister Denies Chemical Weapons Plant *[MENA]* 18
Libya: Envoy Asks UN To Lift Sanctions Following 'Fresh Evidence' *[JANA]* 19
Libya: JANA Claims New 'Evidence' of U.S. Involvement in UK Officer's Death 19

Sudan

Sudan: Vice President, Rebel Leaders Give News Conference *[Omdurman Radio]* 20
Sudan: Rebel Officials React to Peace Deal, Denounce Riak *[London International]* 20
Sudan: Rebel Statements Made After Peace Deal *[London International]* 21

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia: CDLR Rejects Mediation, Vows To Recover Its 'Rights' *[CDLS Statement No. 44, etc.]* 23

United Arab Emirates

UAE: Security Council Urged To Discuss Israel's Measures, Arms *[WAKH]* 23

Yemen

Yemen: 'Intensified Military Preparations' in al-Hadidah *[London AL-HAYAH 11 Apr]* 23

IRAQ

Iraq: 'Optimism' Over 'Imminent Agreement' in Oil-for-Food Talks *[London AL-HAYAH 11 Apr]* 25
Iraq: Airspace 'Violation' Protested to UN Chief *[INA]* 26
Iraq: 'Diplomatic Sources' Expect Ties With Turkey To Improve *[MENA]* 26
Iraq: AL-THAWRAH Analyzes U.S. 'Threats' to Libya *[INA]* 26
Iraq: Husayn Kamil's Death Described *[London AL-HAWADITH 1 Mar]* 27
Iraq: Husayn Kamil-Iraqi Opposition Contacts Discussed *[London AL-MAJALLAH 3 Mar]* 28

ISRAEL

Israeli Leaders' News Conference on Lebanon Operations *[Jerusalam Radio]* 31
Israel: 'Senior Sources'—Reprisal Options 'Remain Open' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34
Israel: Government Document Provides Rationale for Attacks *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 35
Israel: Deputy Defense Minister—Iranians in Lebanon Also 'Target' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
Israel: Gen. Levin Prepares North for 'Long Operation' in Lebanon *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
Israel: Netanyahu To Support Continued Actions in Lebanon *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
Israel: Peres Not Interested in New Understandings in Lebanon *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
Israel: IDF Warns South Lebanese To Leave Villages by 1130 GMT *[Jerusalem Radio]* 37
Israel: Paper Urges Deferring Lebanon Action to After Election *[HA'ARETZ 11 Apr]* 37
Israel: Commentary Justifies IDF Operations in Lebanon *[DAVAR RISHON 11 Apr]* 38
Israel: Tourist Wounded in E. Jerusalem Hotel Explosion *[Jericho VOP]* 38
Israel: 'Huge' Explosion at E. Jerusalem Hotel *[Jerusalem Radio]* 38
Israel: 'Terrorist' Seriously Wounded in Jerusalem Hotel Blast *[Jerusalem Radio]* 39
Israel: Rockets Land in W. Galilee; No Casualties *[Jerusalem Radio]* 39
Israel: IDF, Police Report No Katyushas Landed in W. Galilee *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 39

Israel: Katyushas Fall on Qiryat Shemona; Casualties Reported *[Jerusalem Radio]* 39
Israel: Katyushas Land in W. Galilee; No Casualties Reported *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 39
Israel: More Katyushas Fall in W. Galilee; No Casualties *[Jerusalem Radio]* 39
Israel: 10,000 People Evacuated From Northern Border *[HA'ARETZ 12 Apr]* 39
Israel: Large-Scale Operation Against Hizballah Said 'Inevitable' *[HA'ARETZ 12 Apr]* 40
Israel: Bethlehem Declared 'Closed Military Zone' for 'Arafat Visit *[Jerusalem Radio]* 41
Israel: Netanyahu Warns Hizballah Not To Hope Likud Assumes Power *[THE JERUSALEM POST 12 Apr]* 41

JORDAN

Jordan: Palestinian Official Denies Statements on Support to Hamas *[Amman TV]* 42
Jordan: Minister Denies Presence of Egyptian 'Extremists' in Jordan *[AL-DUSTUR 12 Apr]* 42
Jordan: Prime Minister Expresses Support to Lebanese Counterpart *[Amman Radio]* 42

LEBANON

Lebanon: Shiite Figures Denounce 'Aggression,' See U.S. Role *[Beirut Radio]* 44
Lebanon: Hizballah Warns of Hitting 'Enemy' 'Where it Hurts Most' *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 44
Lebanon: Hizballah Official Threatens Response to 'Zionist Raids' *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 44
Lebanon: Iranian Ambassador—Peres To Blame for Consequences *[Beirut Radio]* 44
Lebanon: Israel Warns It Can Strike Anywhere in Lebanon *[Voice of the South]* 44
Lebanon: Foreign Minister—Israeli 'Attacks' Destroy Peace Process *[Beirut Radio]* 45
Lebanon: Al-Hirawi Briefs al-Asad on Israeli 'Attacks' *[Beirut Radio]* 45
Lebanon: Israeli Helicopters Hit 'Civilian' Car; 2 Wounded *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 45
Lebanon: Israeli Helicopter Fires Rocket at Road *[Beirut Radio]* 45
Lebanon: Hizballah Media Official on Response to Israeli Attacks *[London MBC TV]* 45
Lebanon: Israeli Helicopter Raids Grove; Gunboats Cruise Coast *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 46
Lebanon: Iranian Envoy Says Bombing Peres Election Ploy *[IRNA]* 46
Lebanon: Hizballah Official Threatens Retaliation for Israeli Raid *[IRNA]* 46
Lebanon: Hizballah Official Condemns Israeli Raid *[IRNA]* 46
Lebanon: Al-Hariri on Israeli Attacks, Peace Condition *[Beirut Radio]* 46
Lebanon: Unnamed Hizballah Official Reportedly Killed Near Tyre *[Voice of the South]* 48
Lebanon: Israeli Helicopters Said Opening Fire on Civilian Cars *[Beirut Radio]* 48
Lebanon: Radio Updates Casualties—Israeli Flights Continue *[VOL]* 48
Lebanon: Israeli Shelling Reported; Villagers Leave Homes *[Beirut Radio]* 48
Lebanon: Hizballah Fires Rockets at Galilee as 'First' Response *[VOL]* 48
Lebanon: Hizballah Chief Vows To Hit Northern Israel in Retaliation *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 49
Lebanon: 3 Wounded by 'Zionist' Shelling in South *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 50
Lebanon: Hizballah Fires 'New Salvo' of Katyushas *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 50
Lebanon: Hizballah Radio Reports Israeli Air Raid Against Jibshit *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 50
Lebanon: Katyusha Rockets Said To Fall in Israeli Metulla Settlement *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 50
Lebanon: Citizens Warned To Vacate Areas 'Within 4 Hours' *[Voice of the South]* 50
Lebanon: Israeli Navy Begins 'Intense Military Operations' *[Voice of the South]* 50
Lebanon: Southern Radio Urges Villagers To Leave *[Voice of the South]* 50
Lebanon: More Village Inhabitants Asked To Leave Areas *[Voice of the South]* 51
Lebanon: Israeli Air Force To Begin Action 'at 1130 GMT' *[Voice of the South]* 51
Lebanon: Israeli Warplanes Raid Tyre; Truck, Van Bombed *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 51
Lebanon: Wider Significance of Israeli Beirut Raids Viewed *[London THE GUARDIAN 12 Apr]* 51
Lebanon: Radio Names Villages To Be Shelled 'This Afternoon' *[Voice of the South]* 52
Lebanon: Specialist Says Syria Gains Most From Israeli Raids *[London INDEPENDENT 12 Apr]* 52
Lebanon: Jibshit Coming Under Air Raid; Thousands Flee Villages *[Voice of Lebanon]* 53
Lebanon: Anonymous Caller Warns of Attacks on U.S., Israeli Targets *[Jerusalem Radio]* 53
Lebanon: Islamic Organization Threatens Israeli, U.S. Interests *[VOL]* 53

Lebanon: Nasrallah—Response to Beirut Attack Not in North Israel [*Voice of the Oppressed*] 53
Lebanon: 'No Alternative' to Stepping Up 'Resistance' Against Israel [*AL-HAYAH 12 Apr*] 54
Lebanon: Hizballah Radio Reports 'Fourth' Salvo of Katyushas [*Voice of the Oppressed*] 55
Lebanon: Southern Radio Asks Residents of 4 Villages To Leave Homes [*Voice of the South*] 55
Lebanon: Woman Killed, 3 Children Injured in Kafr Milki [*Beirut Radio*] 55
Lebanon: Israeli Planes Destroy 3-Story Building in Tyre [*Beirut Radio*] 55
Lebanon: Radio Says Israel's Shelling Ultimatum Extended for 2 Hours [*Voice of the South*] 55
Lebanon: Mufti Qabalan Appeals to People To Hold Onto Homes [*Beirut Radio*] 55
Lebanon: Israeli Helicopters Raid Beirut Area, Bombard South [*VOL*] 55
Lebanon: More Israeli Raids Reported in Beirut Suburb [*Beirut Radio*] 56
Lebanon: Lebanese, Syrian Army Positions Targeted by Israelis [*Beirut Radio*] 56
Lebanon: Israeli Warships Bombard South Beirut Areas [*VOL*] 56
Lebanon: More Areas in Beirut Suburb Come Under Bombardment [*Beirut Radio*] 56
Lebanon: SLA Radio Reports Raid on Beirut in Return for Katyushas [*Voice of the South*] 56
Lebanon: Traffic Stopped at Airport; Syrian Officer Wounded [*VOL*] 56
Lebanon: 4 Killed, Dozens Injured in Today's Operations [*VOL*] 56
Lebanon: 6 Martyred in Artillery Bombardment [*Beirut Radio*] 57
Lebanon: Israeli Warplanes Raid al-Nabatiyah [*Voice of the Oppressed*] 57
Lebanon: Islamic Resistance Detonates Bomb Under Israeli Patrol [*Voice of the Oppressed*] 57
Lebanon: Raid Kills 4, Wounds 7; 'Big Fire' Reported in 'Warehouse' [*Voice of the Oppressed*] ... 57
Lebanon: Israel Reports 'Pinpointed Strafing' of Hizballah Targets [*Tel Aviv Radio*] 57
Lebanon: Radio Says Shelling of 'Evacuated' Villages, Towns Started [*Voice of the South*] 57
Lebanon: Al-Hariri's Remarks to CNN Correspondent Reported [*Beirut Radio*] 57
Lebanon: Military Personnel Requested To Report to Stations [*Radio Free Lebanon*] 58
Lebanon: Civilian, Syrian Casualties Reported in Beirut [*AFP*] 58
Lebanon: Hizballah Radio Reports New Air Raids [*Voice of the Oppressed*] 58
Lebanon: Beirut Raid Seen as 'Message to Damascus' [*AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 12 Apr*] 59
Lebanon: Israeli Helicopters Raid Lebanese Army Checkpoint in South [*Voice of the Oppressed*] ... 59

SYRIA

Syria: Paper Blames Israel for Escalation in South Lebanon [*Damascus Radio*] 60
Syria: Commentary—Israeli 'Aggression' in Lebanon Harms Peace [*Damascus Radio*] 60
Syria: Khaddam, al-Shar' Receive UK Delegation [*Damascus Radio*] 61
Syria: Paper on 'Alliances' Aimed To Weaken Syrian Stand [*Damascus Radio*] 61
Syria: Paper Links Anti-Libya 'Campaign' to Israeli Nuclear Leak [*TISHRIN 9 Apr*] 62
Syria: Ba'th Party Palestinian Group Holds Speech Rally [*Damascus Radio*] 62

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Afghanistan: Rabbani Accuses Taleban of Acting Against Islam [*Message of Freedom*] 63
Afghanistan: UN Security Council Discusses Afghan Crisis [*Tehran Radio*] 63
Afghanistan: 'Progress' Noted in Talks With Opposition [*Kabul Radio*] 63
Afghanistan: Hekmatyar Forces Capture District in Paktia Province [*Message of Freedom*] 63
Afghanistan: Government Forces Capture Sargar District [*Message of Freedom*] 64
Afghanistan: Taleban Denies Territorial Losses to Government [*Message of Freedom*] 64

Bangladesh

Bangladesh: Caretaker Government To Draw Up 3-Month Budget [*Dhaka Radio*] 64
Bangladesh: India Urged To Remove Barriers To Reduce Trade Gap [*THE MORNING SUN 5 Apr*] 64

India

India: Envoy to UN Opposes 'Foreign Interference' in Afghanistan [*Delhi Radio*] 65

India: Sri Lankan Emergency Seen as ‘Major Blow’ To Democracy *[Delhi Radio]* 65
India: Concern Voiced Over Possible Russian Fighter Sale to PRC *[THE TIMES OF INDIA 11 Apr]* 66
India: Two ‘Dreaded’ Terrorists Arrested in Punjab *[Delhi Radio]* 67
India: PTV Reports ‘Civil Disobedience’ Movement in Kashmir *[Islamabad TV]* 67
India: ‘Z Plus’ Security Given to Kashmir Election Candidates *[Delhi Radio]* 67
India: BJP Puts Prithvi Missile Development at Top of Agenda *[INDIAN EXPRESS 10 Apr]* 68
India: Congress Party Releases Election Manifesto *[Delhi Radio]* 68
India: BJP Releases ‘Supplementary’ Election Manifesto *[THE TIMES OF INDIA 11 Apr]* 69
India: Court Directs Government To Ban Import of Toxic Waste *[Delhi Radio]* 70
India: Commentary Views Problem of Toxic Waste Disposal *[Delhi Radio]* 70

Iran

Iran: Joint Naval Exercises Begin in Bandar-e ’Abbas Area of Gulf *[Tehran Radio]* 70
Iran: Velayati on ‘Long-Term’ Cooperation With Russia, Central Asia *[IRNA]* 71
Iran: Ties With Russia Based on ‘Long-Term Strategy’ *[Tehran Radio]* 71
Iran: ‘Failed’ U.S. Efforts To Halt Ties With Russia Viewed *[Tehran Radio]* 72
Iran: Velayati, Turkmen Counterpart Discuss Railway Link *[Tehran TV]* 72
Iran: Iran-Turkey Diplomatic Crisis Viewed; Ankara Warned *[Tehran Radio]* 72
Iran: TEHRAN TIMES Scores Turkey’s Accord With Israel *[7 Apr]* 73
Iran: Commentary Criticizes Turkey’s Agreement With Israel *[JOMHURI-YE ELSAMI 8 Apr]* 73
Iran: Foreign Ministry Condemns Israeli Attack in Lebanon *[IRNA]* 74
Iran: Growing Ties With Bosnia Said Sign of Failed U.S. Efforts *[Tehran Radio]* 74
Iran: Tehran Radio on OIC Contact Group Declaration on Bosnia *[Tehran Radio]* 75
Iran: Commerical Liner Purchased From China *[IRNA]* 75
Iran: Paper Views EU’s Stand on ‘Terrorism’ *[TEHRAN TIMES 2 Apr]* 76
Iran: Regional Cooperation Needed To ‘Rescue’ Area *[TEHRAN TIMES 8 Apr]* 77
Iran: Guards Corps Commander—Hezbollah Must Fight ‘Liberalism’ *[IRNA]* 77
Iran: Yazdi Says Drug Sales ‘Politically Motivated’ *[IRNA]* 77
Iran: Reader Says Traditional Right Intolerant *[SALAM 3 Apr]* 78
Iran: Paper Criticizes ‘Political Eligibility’ Criterion *[’ASR-E MA 4 Apr]* 78
Iran: Editorial Views Guardian Council’s Elections Rulings *[RESALAT 6 Apr]* 79
Iran: Official Discusses Reasons for Annulling Esfahan Elections *[RESALAT 7 Apr]* 80
Iran: Khamene’i Emphasizes Cultural Mission of TV, Radio *[Tehran TV]* 80

Nepal & Bhutan

Nepal: Editorial Sees ‘Bright’ Prospects for PRC Ties *[THE KATHMANDU POST 11 Apr]* 80

Pakistan

Pakistan: Asif Expresses Readiness for Kashmir Talks With India *[Islamabad Radio]* 81
Pakistan: Indian Bid To Deploy More Troops in Kashmir Decried *[Islamabad TV]* 82
Pakistan: Bhutto Sends Condolences to Widow of Kashmir Activist *[Islamabad Radio]* 82
Pakistan: Editorial Condemns India’s Threats Over Kashmir Elections *[NAWA-I-WAQT 10 Apr]* 82
Pakistan: Azerbaijani President Said To Support Kashmir Policy *[THE FRONTIER POST 11 Apr]* 82
Pakistan: Agreements Signed With Azerbaijan; Aliyev Departs *[Islamabad Radio]* 83
Pakistan: Editorial Views Russian, Indian Talks on Afghanistan *[THE MUSLIM 11 Apr]* 83
Pakistan: Jafari Front Leader Condemns Israeli Air Raid on Lebanon *[IRNA]* 84
Pakistan: Foreign Minister Says ‘No Move’ To Recognize Israel *[Islamabad Radio]* 84
Pakistan: Foreign Office Spokesman Comments on Afghan Issues *[Islamabad Radio]* 84
Pakistan: Editorial Backs U.S. Proposal for Afghan Arms Embargo *[THE FRONTIER POST 12 Apr]* 85

Pakistan: Role of U.S. Media in Ring Magnet Controversy Questioned *[THE NATION 12 Apr]* 85
Pakistan: Editorial Views Brown Amendment *[THE NEWS 11 Apr]* 86
Pakistan: French Navy Officer Discusses Submarines Made for Islamabad *[THE MUSLIM 11 Apr]* 86

Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka: Further on Naval Clash With Tigers; 5 Boats Destroyed *[DAILY NEWS 12 Apr]* .. 87
Sri Lanka: LTTE Believed Responsible for Explosions in Colombo Harbor *[AFP]* 88
Sri Lanka: 4 LTTE Militants, 1 Soldier Killed in Clashes *[Colombo Radio]* 88
Sri Lanka: LTTE Dispatch Reports Atrocities of Troops, PLOTE Members *[Tamil Eelam News WWW 7 Apr]* 88

International Affairs: Cairo Declaration on Pelindaba Treaty Issued

NC1104150296 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT 11 Apr 96

["Text" of the "Cairo Declaration" document issued by the international conference on "Nuclear-Free Africa" in Cairo on 11 April]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 11 Apr (MENA)—The African countries, which met in Cairo, the Arab Republic of Egypt, on 11 April 1996, have signed a treaty on making Africa a nuclear-free area called the Pelindaba Treaty;

While recalling the declaration on nuclear disarmament in Africa, which was approved by the conference held by the OAU heads of states and governments at their first regular session held in Cairo in 1964;

While also recalling the approval of the final text of the treaty by the conference of the OAU heads of states and governments at their regular 31st session, held in Addis Ababa between 26 and 28 June 1995;

While also recalling the UN General Assembly Resolution 50/78 of 12 December 1995, in which the Assembly welcomed the African leaders' approval of the treaty's final text;

In recognition of the valuable contribution that the setting up of nuclear-free areas in Latin America, the Caribbean Sea, the southern Pacific Ocean, and Southeast Asia is making to the process of the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons;

And while underlining the importance of strengthening regional and international cooperation in order to develop the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in the interest of economic and social development in the African continent;

They declare in a legal way that the signing of this treaty strengthens international efforts toward banning the proliferation of nuclear weapons, including the objectives of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. They also regard it as important for strengthening international peace and security. They call on all African countries to ratify the treaty as soon as possible so that it can be implemented without delay.

They call on the countries that possess nuclear weapons, and also the potential ones listed in Protocol 3, to sign and ratify the treaty's protocols as soon as possible.

They stress that the setting up of nuclear-free areas, specially in areas of tension such as the Middle East, on the basis of arrangements to be reached freely by the concerned countries in the region, will strengthen international and regional peace and security.

They call on those countries that have so far not signed and ratified the treaty and the protocols to comply with the NPT.

They call on the countries that possess nuclear weapons to continue the endeavors to achieve the objective of a nuclear-free world, free as stipulated in Article 6 of the NPT, by holding urgent negotiations on these agreements and taking effective measures to ensure that all nuclear weapons are removed as soon as possible.

They decided that the first session of the conference, to be held by the signatory countries, will be held not later than one year from the time it goes into effect and also decided to set up the headquarters of the African Committee on Nuclear Energy in South Africa.

They call on the UN secretary general, in accordance with the UN General Assembly Resolution 50/78 of 12 December 1995, to extend the necessary assistance during 1996 so that the objectives of this declaration can be achieved.

Cairo, 11 April 1996.

International Affairs: AFCONE To Monitor Pelindaba Treaty

MB1104171496 Johannesburg SAfm Radio Network in English 1445 GMT 11 Apr 96

[From the "PM Live" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] All 53 African countries and four of the world's major nuclear powers signed a treaty in Cairo today to ban nuclear weapons from the African continent, and for more on Egypt's role in drawing up that treaty Steven Lange spoke to Dr. Waldo Stumpf, who is chief executive officer of the Atomic Energy Corporation.

[Stumpf] Now I think we should recognize the role that Egypt has played in the establishment of the Pelindaba Treaty. They actually played a very pivotal role but also had a very difficult placing geographically, in that they had to face the African continent, but on their rear guard they also have to face the Middle East, but I think they are certainly looking forward to the lessons they and all of us have learned on the Pelindaba Treaty, to try and emulate that in the Middle East, and I think there are quite a few lessons that can be transplanted there.

[Lange] How will this treaty be monitored?

[Stumpf] It will be monitored by an African commission called AFCONE — it actually stands for African Commission on Nuclear Energy, so you can see already it's not only nuclear weapons, there's also the peaceful uses coming into that. Afcone will consist of very small permanent staff, maybe two, at the most three people, but then they will be joined by up to 12 commissioners who are voted into office, I think every two or three years. South Africa's offer to host Afcone, exactly where it will be happening in South Africa is not quite clear yet, but this offer has been taken up by the OAU, so Afcone will probably be held in South Africa somewhere.

[Lange] I believe that South Africa had quite an important role in drawing up the Pelindaba Treaty.

[Stumpf] Yes, certainly I think we should also give credit obviously to Egypt and many of the African countries who played the initiating role, because this treaty comes from as far back as 1960, but it was really only after South Africa signed the NPT [Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty] that this treaty could become a reality and I myself became involved in the treaty in 1993 on my first visit to Harare, and that was a very interesting visit where I think we started making inroads into Africa, and friends, and since then I think South Africa has played a very prominent role, but I don't think we should see it that we own the treaty. The credit should also go to many other countries like Egypt, but we certainly played a pivotal role in bringing it into existence in the final instance.

International Affairs: Algiers, 52 Others Sign Pelindaba Treaty

LD1104213296 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Fifty-three countries, including Algeria, have today signed in Cairo the convention to free the continent of Africa from nuclear weapons. [passage omitted]]

International Affairs: Lesotho Signs Pelindaba Treaty

MB1104123496 Maseru Radio Lesotho in English 1130 GMT 1 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The minister of foreign affairs, the Honorable Kelebone Maope, today signed the African Nuclear Weapons Free Zone Treaty on behalf of the Lesotho Government at the signing ceremony in Cairo, Egypt. The ceremony was attended by the foreign ministers of African states representing their respective countries.

By signing this treaty the African states have declared, among others, their commitment to keep Africa free of environmental pollution by radioactive waste and other radioactive matter, and have called upon all nuclear weapons states to actively pursue the goal of a nuclear weapon free world. The treaty also endorses the establishment of the African Commission on Nuclear Energy in the Republic of South Africa.

International Affairs: Morocco Signs Pelindaba Treaty

LD1104230996 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In Cairo, participants in the signing ceremony of the Africa nuclear-free zone agreement have issued a statement they named Cairo Declaration. [Moroccan] Minister of Energy and Mines Abdellatif Guerraoui has signed for Morocco. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] It is worth mentioning that Morocco's decision to sign this treaty has materialized following receiving guarantees from Egypt in its capacity as the host country to exclude the participation of any entity which does not enjoy full UN membership [referring to Polisario, Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] in this ceremony.

Morocco has stressed that its signing of the treaty is not binding to it unless it is signed or joined later on by only the African states which are members of the United Nations. [end recording]

International Affairs: Musa, IAEA's Blix Comment on Pelindaba Treaty

NC1104151696 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 11 Apr (MENA) — Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has urged Israel to take a similar step to that taken by African states when they abandoned the nuclear military option. At a press conference at the end of the conference at which a treaty declaring Africa free of nuclear weapons was signed, Musa called on Israel to join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] and embark with its Arab neighbors on measures and arrangements that lead to the establishment of a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East.

Musa pointed out that this will considerably enhance the security of the countries involved in the African nuclear-free zone because of the actual strong connection between Africa's security and the Middle East's.

Responding to a question on the passage of ships carrying nuclear material in the African regional waters, Musa said that there are international rules governing this matter. The treaty we signed today is based on these rules, he said, adding that everything related to the question of passing through the African regional waters is subject to the established international rules and will be the subject of strict controls according to detailed agreements to be reached later.

Musa was asked about Russia's refusal to sign the treaty and the appendices because it objects to the presence of an American base near Mauritius. The foreign minister said that Russia did not refuse to sign. He explained that it only asked for a delay.

'Amr Musa denied having any information on the matter, adding: The Russian side has not briefed us on the causes you mentioned in the question.

Touching on the need for Israel to sign the NPT, Musa said: This matter was handled by addressing a call for setting up a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. This means handling the various nuclear dimensions, primarily those involving Israel.

Musa reiterated that Egypt will maintain the policy of calling for Israel's inclusion in the NPT. He affirmed that the declaration of a nuclear-free zone in Africa necessitates the establishment of a similar zone in the Middle East as well.

In response to a question that the big powers and the IAEA use double standards regarding nuclear inspection, targeting only Iraq and Iran and "making no reference to Israel," who possesses a nuclear arsenal, IAEA Director General Hans Blix, who participated in the news conference, said that there are two different problems: The first concerns the proliferation of nuclear weapons and the second nuclear security. He noted that "the IAEA has no right to inspect any country anywhere and that inspection takes place in accordance with concluded agreements that countries sign by consent." He added: Our mission concerns guaranteeing and ascertaining that nuclear material is not turned into something to be used as fatal weapons. He added: We receive reports from inspectors, but this takes place when a country signs an agreement with us. He noted that Israel is not a party to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] and has not signed it. He voiced his hope that the countries of the world will make efforts to create a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East. He said that the IAEA's mission when a country is not a signatory of the NPT is limited to giving counsel and guidance. [passage omitted]

Salim Ahmed Salim, secretary general of the Organization of African Unity, who participated in the news conference, said that the agreement that was signed today is considered to be a historic and important step not only to the African countries but to all countries of the world. He expressed his hope that the African countries will begin to cooperate with the big powers and the IAEA in directing attention to development programs and the use of nuclear energy in peaceful purposes.

International Affairs: Musa Comments on Signing of Pelindaba Treaty

NC1104115096 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1105 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The ceremony for signing a treaty declaring Africa free of nuclear weapons concluded a short time ago. Representatives of over 40 African countries signed the treaty. The signing ceremony was attended by a representative of the UN secretary general, the OAU secretary general, and the director of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA]. It was also attended by representatives of the five nuclear states, namely, the United States, Russia, Britain, France, and China.

Following the ceremony the Cairo Declaration was announced. The declaration urges African countries to ratify the treaty as soon as possible so that the treaty can go into effect. The declaration stresses that establishing zones free of nuclear weapons, particularly in such areas of tension as the Middle East, would consolidate world peace and security.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, the OAU secretary general, and the IAEA director held a news conference after the ceremony. Concerning the implementation of the treaty, Musa said:

[Begin Musa recording] The first step should be to ratify the treaty. This would put the treaty, which was signed today, into effect. This cannot be done without ratification by a specific number of governments. Then an African committee for nuclear energy will be established. The purpose of this committee is to seek cooperation among the African countries for the peaceful use of this energy. Political action relating to the treaty signed today contains a strong message: Africa, now that it has decided to be free of nuclear weapons, is not acting in this way to benefit another region that is full of nuclear weapons. The idea of the African philosophy is to get Africa out of the cycle of nuclear armament, with all its options, and to ask others to show the same respect. This is a strong message addressed to everybody. Undoubtedly, what happened today will generate strong momentum to establish a zone free of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. Thank you. [end recording]

International Affairs: Musa Remarks Further on Pelindaba Treaty

NC1104164596 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1510 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 11 Apr (MENA) — Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stressed that the treaty declaring Africa free of nuclear weapons — under which these countries abstain from using, stockpiling, or merly burying nuclear waste — establishes numerous obligations not only on African countries, but also on other countries not to threaten the African countries' security and territories through stockpiling, manufacturing, sneaking [tamrir] in, or the firing of such weapons on these countries.

In a statement to reporters today, Musa said that the treaty and its protocols that the five nuclear countries will sign is a comprehensive one and an important step toward nuclear disarmament of the whole world because it includes a large number of African countries and, at the same time, joins the previous treaties in this context, such as the South Pacific Ocean, East Asia, and Latin America.

Musa said that we must act to remove these weapons from the entire world and prevent additional countries from acquiring such weapons because they threaten the areas where there are such weapons. He noted the imporant link between Africa and the Middle East geographically and security-wise. He said that the treaty declaring Africa nuclear-free must be complemented by a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East, noting that without this, Africa will be threatened because of the presence of weapons around it. He stressed that Egypt will oppose anything that may disturb the peace process and security in the Arab and African regions.

International Affairs: Libyan Delegation Releases Statement on Nuclear Weapons

NC1104192196 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1725 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 11 Apr (MENA)—Libya today stressed the importance of making Africa free from nuclear weapons and the need for this to coincide and be linked to making other regions of the world free of nuclear weapons. A statement released by the Libyan delegation, which participated in the signing ceremony for the treaty declaring Africa nuclear free, said that the great Libyan Jamahiriyah announces unequivocally that it has no desire or intention, nor does it have the resources, to enter the atomic club. All that Libya wants is the peaceful use of atomic energy, in line with the rules determined by the international community. The statement stressed that the danger surrounding the world comes from the nuclear potential monopolized by certain countries, which must pledge not to use or threaten to use these weapons for their personal interests in areas free of these weapons. It said that the north African countries, Sudan, south Egypt, the Gulf countries, and Iraq are threatened by Israel's nuclear weapons because they (?might) be used against Israel's neighbors, since it is the only country in the region that has not joined the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] and that does not comply with the international community's resolutions.

The statement pointed out that the region has been exposed to a nuclear radiation leak from the Dimona reactor and, instead of confronting this danger, the United States is diverting the attention of the world from it. Also, the United States realizes that Israel's signing of the treaty will not protect Africa from Israeli nuclear danger. The statement said that Israel's boasting about its possession of nuclear weapons and insistence on not joining the NPT entitle the Arab and African countries to arm themselves, whatever the price, to confront this danger.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Inter-Arab Affairs: Arab League Condemns Israeli 'Aggression' Against Lebanon

NC1104201096 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1925 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 11 Apr (MENA)—The Arab League secretariat general condemned the Israeli attacks on Lebanon today and the aggressive practices that contravene international laws and norms.

In a statement it issued today, the secretariat general expressed total solidarity with the Lebanese people's steadfastness and its right to defend its territories. It reiterated its support for the Lebanese Government in taking all the measures for confronting this blatant aggression.

The statement said: The Arab League is following with deep concern the Israelis' attacks on Lebanese territories. It stressed that Israel's bombardment of the Lebanese capital Beirut, and the surrounding areas, and the endangering of the lives of civilians represent a violation of the security, safety, and sanctity of the Lebanese state, which is an Arab League member state.

The statement stressed that the Israeli aggression is another addition to the obstacles placed by Israel before the peace process and is leading to a paralysis of the Middle East peace process.

The statement urged the international community to condemn Israel for its brutal aggression. It called for the adoption of all the necessary and urgent measures to make Israel respect Lebanon's sovereignty and the sanctity of its lands and air space and to force it to implement Security Council Resolution 425, which calls for Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

Inter-Arab Affairs: Arab, African Statement Backs Libya on 'Crisis' With West

NC1204074196 Cairo MENA in Arabic
2215 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 11 Apr (MENA)—The seven-member Arab and five-member African committees concerned with the Libyan-Western crisis, Lockerbie, have expressed solidarity with Libya. They voiced support for Libya's efforts aimed at finding a peaceful solution to the crisis in the framework of the principles of international law and respect for Libya's national sovereignty. They also reiterated Arab League and OAU resolutions in this regard.

In a statement following their meeting this evening, members of the two committees expressed deep concern about the human and material losses inflicted on the Libyan and neighboring nations as a result of the arbitrary measures imposed on the Libyan people under Security Council Resolutions 748 and 883.

The statement noted the "dangers" resulting from the insistence of the Western countries concerned with the crisis on maintaining sanctions on Libya and the dangers of the continuation of this crisis to the region's and world's security and peace.

The Arab and African committees' statement called on the three countries concerned with the Libyan-Western crisis to respond to the flexible and positive Libyan stand and to efforts and initiatives advocating dialogue and negotiations. The aim, the statement added, is to reach a final solution to the crisis according to Article 33 of Chapter Six of the UN charter that calls for resolving disputes through negotiations, mediation, and legal settlement.

The statement called for intensifying efforts with the Security Council and taking into consideration the positiveness of the proposal contained in Arab League Council Resolution 5373 of 27 March 1994. It calls for a fair trial of the two suspects by Scottish judges under Scottish law at the International Court of Justice in the Hague as a basis for resolving the crisis. It also calls on the Security Council to reconsider its resolutions 731 and 883 with a view to lifting the embargo on Libya.

The statement expressed appreciation for most countries' solidarity with Libya in this crisis. It entrusted the Arab League and OAU secretaries general to coordinate joint efforts in line with a working plan to handle the situation with the countries concerned, Security Council member states, and the UN secretary general to stop the escalation of the crisis and find a peaceful and fair solution acceptable to all parties concerned.

Palestinian Affairs

Palestinian Affairs: DFLP Condemns 'Zionist Air Raid,' U.S. Support

LD1204060896 Tehran IRNA in English
0551 GMT 12 Apr 96

["Democratic Front for Liberation of Palestine Condemns Zionist Air Raid"—IRNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Demascus, April 12, IRNA — The Democratic Front for Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] announced here Thursday that Zionist regime's air raids on Beirut was the biggest terrorist operation of Zionists.

Spokesman of the Front told IRNA on Thursday that the bombardment of residential regions in Beirut was declaring war against the people of the region.

He noted that the U.S. supported all terrorist measures of the Zionist regime.

He called on the Arab world to uprise for supporting Lebanese and Palestinian people.

The spokesman stressed that the international communities should prevent blatant assault on defenseless people of the region by the occupying forces.

Palestinian Affairs: Commentary—U.S. Behind Israeli 'Aggression'

JN1104163496 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1350 GMT 11 Apr 96

[Station commentary: "An Open Zionist Aggression"]

[FBIS Translated Text] After the United States passed the codeword to the Zionist enemy to start its open war against the innocent civilians in southern Lebanon, the U.S.-Zionist warplanes carried out the expected aggression early this morning. The aggression targets our people in southern Lebanon as well as children, women, and old people in the Western and Central al-Biqa'. The aggression reached as far as the historical columns of Ba'labakk, the southern suburb, and al-Awza'i, causing death and destruction. This aggression proves that the recipe of international official terrorism was recently acknowledged at the Sharm al-Shaykh summit.

Only one day ago, the U.S. Administration flagrantly announced that national and Islamic resistance is to blame for what is going on in southern Lebanon and that this resistance defies the status quo and seeks to change it. The U.S. Administration ignores that this resistance is defending itself against the official Zionist terrorism and the massacres perpetrated by the occupation troops against the innocent and secure people. This resistance is adopting a natural and principled position based on struggle to repulse the aggression and liberate the occupied Lebanese land.

Following this U.S. position, which is tantamount to giving the codeword and orders to terrorist Shim'on Peres to carry out the premeditated hostile plan, the Zionist military leadership issued a statement threatening villages and peasants with mass extermination and immediate expulsion from their land and houses. Following this statement, the enemy's warplanes started the aerial aggression against Lebanon. A reconnaissance plane overflew Beirut while scores of other warplanes dropped tonnes of shells on secure local residents, destroying houses, burning farms, and killing people.

In the meantime, President Clinton is watching the destruction, while his administration persists in speaking about human rights and the right of self-determination for all peoples. The new Zionist aggression is an American aggression. It is a brazen challenge to the will of all the peoples of the region. It also contradicts Washington's claim that it seeks to set up what it calls peace. It coincides with the announcement of a Zionist-Turkish military agreement. It also concurs with the undeclared resolutions that were made in the Sharm al-Shaykh conference at the will of the U.S. Administration.

It also aims to dilute the domestic contradictions inside the Zionist entity on the backdrop of the elections which will be held in late May. Lebanon is now becoming a Zionist test ground to provide the ruling powers with chances of success against the other opponents. Strangely, the president of the greatest country in the world is blessing and directing such an aggression against innocent and small people and against an Arab capital.

Terrorist Shim'on Peres should learn from the mistakes of others, particularly the mistakes of his predecessor, late terrorist Rabin, and from the mistakes of his archenemy Sharon. He should know that the test grounds which he wants to ignite in Lebanon will certainly turn into a fire that will bring him failure, defeat, and disappointment.

Terrorist Rabin used the iron fist policy. He then used the scorched land policy. Sharon used the invasion method. All these methods, however, brought only failure to the invading and aggressive forces. We believe that the answer in southern Lebanon now will be no less than that.

The Palestinian resistance movement and our Palestinian people, who today celebrate the anniversary of the al-Khalisah [Qiryat Shemona] heroic operation that was carried out by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command fighters in 1974, are providing all resources and all material and moral means in support of the national and Islamic resistance movement in Lebanon. They consider the Zionist open invasion against Lebanon today an invasion against our people and nation. Peres' aggression is an open one, and so will be our resistance. All means and methods will be used in the service of this resistance in its battle for self-defense, in its battle against aggression, and in its battle to liberate territory in Lebanon and elsewhere.

The entire Arab nation should adopt a deterrent position against the Zionist enemy. The Arab nation should show full solidarity with Lebanon and all its areas, in the south and al-Biqa', in the southern suburb and al-'Awza'i, and on every grain of its soil. It should also show solidarity with all the fighters who are now carrying their rifles to fight for the clear victory, God willing.

It is a revolution for the liberation of land and man.

Palestinian Affairs: Quray' Criticizes Obstruction of Deputies at Gaza Crossing

JN1104191196 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli occupation troops stopped a number of Palestinian Legislative Council [PLC] members who were on their way back to Gaza Governorate after participating in the PLC's meetings which were held in Ramallah Governorate yesterday and today. Although the deputies have all the necessary documents and permits, the occupation troops stationed at al-Latrun crossing tried to arrest them. The deputies are: 'Abd-al-Rahman Hamad, Fu'ad 'Id, Musa al-Za'but, 'Abd-al-Karim Abu-Salah, 'Imad al-Faluji, Kamal al-Shurafi, and Sa'di al-Kurunz.

Reacting to this Israeli measure, PLC's Speaker Ahmad Quray' made a statement in which he strongly criticized these measures as occupation-like and provocative. He noted that they seek to cripple the Palestinian legislative establishment. Quray' maintained that these practices contradict all agreements, norms, and conventions. He added that the PLC's members are representatives elected by the Palestinian people, that they have immunity, and that they represent the dignity of our Palestinian people. Quray' warned against the dire consequences which might result from such irresponsible measures. He urged the Israeli Government to issue instructions to its soldiers to abide by the principles and provisions of the agreements signed with the PLO.

Palestinian Affairs: 'Abd-Rabbuh Opposes PNC Meeting, Says No Talks With Hamas

TA1104192696 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 Apr 96

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestine National Council [PNC] is expected to hold an extraordinary session on 22 April to discuss all developments relating to the Palestinian problem. Moreover, appraisals have been made about the PNC's intention to discuss amending the Palestinian National Charter. Our correspondent Kayid Zahir interviewed Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, official in charge of information in the Palestinian Authority [PA], about this issue.

[Begin recording] [Zahir] The new PA government has not yet been formed. Why?

['Abd-Rabbuh] I believe that this is the first Palestinian Government after Palestinian elections. For this reason, extensive consultations are required...

[Zahir, interrupting] Not yet?

['Abd-Rabbuh] Yes. Enough time must be provided so that we can get the largest number of representatives of various political currents and tendencies to participate in the Palestinian Government.

[Zahir] Including the opposition?

['Abd-Rabbuh] There is room for everyone, for all Palestinian factions within the PLO's framework.

[Zahir] And do you believe that the PA chairman will succeed in including some of the opposition?

['Abd-Rabbuh] It is essential to hold such a dialogue and consultation. Success or failure is something we cannot determine in advance, but it is the duty of the PA chairman to conduct these consultations with the broadest Palestinian political framework — whether represented inside or outside the PNC. For this reason, we need sufficient time to complete these consultations. Perhaps, the consultations might end during the work of the PNC.

[Zahir] Abu-Bashshar ['Abd-Rabbuh], acting PNC speaker Salim al-Za'nun stated yesterday that the council will meet on 22 April. Do you support and confirm this statement?

['Abd-Rabbuh] I believe that this is not the proper time to convene the PNC. Furthermore, I believe that the PNC can be convened when a suitable climate is provided and when both sides adhere to and abide by the agreements.

[Zahir] Abu-Bashshar, last question. Can one say that talks between Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the PA have reached a dead end?

['Abd-Rabbuh] There are no talks, and also in politics there is no dead end. The PA has always stressed that it is ready to engage in dialogue with the various Palestinian political tendencies on the basis of respect for laws and regulations and the PA's commitments. I believe that we are keen on our relations with Jordan. At the same time we are anxious that no one interfere in our internal affairs. [end recording]

Palestinian Affairs: PFLP, DFLP Hail Formation of Dialogue Committee

JN1104200696 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestinian [DFLP] welcomed President Yasir 'Arafat's decision to form a committee for dialogue with opposition factions affiliated with the PLO. In a statement issued today, the two fronts asserted their keenness on maintaining the Palestinian people's unity and fighting all divisions and forms of fragmentation.

The Arab Front, the provisional command, and the Palestinian Islamic Front earlier welcomed the decision as a step toward building a solid groundwork for a national plan against Israeli intransigence and the Israeli Government's shirking of the requirements of the peace process.

The national dialogue committee, formed upon President 'Arafat's orders, is chaired by al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, general secretary of the presidency, and comprises Nabil 'Amr and Sulayman al-Shurafa as members.

Palestinian Affairs: 2 PFLP Leaders Return To Participate in PNC Session

TA1104151796 Gaza AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH in Arabic 9 Apr 96 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Jamil al-Majdlawi, member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] Political Bureau, and Kayid al-Ghul, member of the PFLP Central Committee, arrived in Gaza on 7 April via the Rafah crossing. Both men are members of the Palestine National Council [PNC].

Al-Majdlawi and al-Ghul were greeted by PFLP figures and cadres and by their relatives. Some other PFLP personalities had returned earlier to the homeland via the al-Karamah bridge. More PFLP leaders who are members of the PNC, including 'Abd-al-Rahim Malluh, member of the PFLP Political Bureau and PLO Executive Committee, and Taysir Qub'ah, member of the political bureau and deputy PNC speaker, are also expected to arrive.

Palestinian Affairs: 'Sharp Differences,' Division Reported in PFLP Leadership

TA1104175596 Ramallah AL-BILAD in Arabic 9 Apr 96 pp 1, 15

[Report by Muhammad Farhan]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman — Palestinian sources in Amman close to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] said that sharp differences broke out at the recent PFLP Political Bureau meeting in which eight members voted in favor of participation in the upcoming Palestine National Council [PNC] session and the front's renewed participation in PLO institutions and the Executive Committee. The sources said that Dr. George Habash, Abu-'Ali Mustafa, Sabir Muhi-al-Din, Mahir al-Tahir, 'Umar Qatish, and Abu-Ahmad Fu'ad represented the axis opposed to participation, whereas 'Abd-al-Rahim Malluh, Taysir Qub'ah, Talal Ahmad, and Jamil Majdlawi, who live in Amman, as well as others from the Palestinian territories, represented the axis of change and the call to face reality. [passage omitted]

The sources affirmed that Habash and Abu-'Ali Mustafa will not return to Palestine and will not participate in the PNC session. They added that the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine continues to propose to the PFLP the unification of the two fronts.

The sources said that the PFLP is now divided into three large blocs: the first, led by Habash in Damascus; the second, headed by Malluh in Amman; and the third in Palestine with the participation of Abu-Nidal al-Muslimi, Fawz Khalifah (who was ousted from the front), Ghazi Abu-Jiyab, 'Umar al-Ghul, and Riyad al-Maliki.

Palestinian Affairs: DFLP's Hawatimah Warns of Intifadah Against 'Arafat

TA1104161396 Ramallah AL-BILAD in Arabic 9 Apr 96 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Nicosia, QUDS PRESS — Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], has warned of the eruption of a new Palestinian intifadah, even more violent than the first one that broke out in December 1987, inside the Palestinian Authority [PA] areas. He said that the new intifadah will flare up against PA head Yasir 'Arafat and his Authority, which showed contempt for the marches of Palestinian university students.

Hawatimah criticized Oman and Qatar for receiving Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, who paid an official visit to these two Gulf states last week. He said that lifting the siege from the Palestinian people requires Arab solidarity rather than receiving the Israeli occupier with honors.

It is worth noting that the DFLP is the first opposition Palestinian faction that has publicly criticized Muscat and Doha for receiving Peres. Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, official in charge of information and culture in the PA, had leveled similar criticism, but PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, Abu-Mazin, said that 'Abd-Rabbuh's statement did not represent the PA's viewpoint.

Hawatimah declared his front's refusal to attend any Palestine National Council meeting that will be held in the Palestinian territories under the guns of the occupation; however, he strongly defended the return of DFLP members to the PA areas. He said: "We are striving to secure the return of our cadres," and added that the main arena of struggle against the Oslo accord is inside rather than outside the occupied territories.

Palestinian Affairs: Hamas Statement Responds to 'Arafat 'Accusations'

TA1104153096 Jerusalem JMCC PRESS SERVICE in English 1425 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Following is a statement by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in response to 'Arafat's accusations to the movement yesterday during one of the PA [Palestinian Authority] Council sessions. 'Arafat revealed to the PA Council a 'secret document' for Hamas Movement discussing methods of confronting the PA. 'Arafat described the document as 'declaration of state of war' on PA. As for the Hamas document, 'Arafat read the important articles included in the plan on defensive and offensive aims and conditions, implementation mechanisms, military apparatus and its tasks, field leadership, nature of administering the battle, and basis for continuation of conflict. The plan explained that in case Hamas wins the battle, this will be a motive for Israel to give up on the PLO and offer concessions to Hamas. 'Arafat said that this plan was found out in some of the investigation files of the PA; clarifying that it has arrived from the Jordanian capital, and dated 19 April 1995.

Press Statement:

Remarking on the accusations addressed by self-autonomy Authority president Yasir 'Arafat to the Islamic Resistance Movement, claiming the existence of a secret document to Hamas Movement including a declaration of war on the Authority, and confessions extracted from the detainees in his prisons, an official source in Hamas stated the following:

Hamas Movement affirms its denial of these accusations, in total and detail, and affirms that it did not issue such a document. It affirms that it (the document) is forged, and came out of the instigator of strife in the self-autonomy Authority, the so-called Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim. He was mandated by 'Arafat to lead the media war against Hamas Movement, and he is the one who specialized in issuing forged leaflets in the name of the Movement and al-Qassam Brigades.

Hamas Movement affirms to our Palestinian people and Islamic nation that our jihad (fight) is directed against the Zionist occupation. This reality will not be changed by forged documents and various confessions that the self-autonomy Authority, under savage torture, forces some detainees to reiterate.

The self-autonomy Authority plays a dangerous game by standing up for the Palestinian people, its institutions and fighting forces. It did not stop for one moment from accusing mujahidin with collaboration with bodies from outside without any proof except its fabrications. While, on the other hand, thousands of public proves affirm its (authority's) alliance with the Zionists to an extent that it receives orders and dictations from them to oppress the people.

Hamas Movement did not yet respond to the oppressive Authority practices and its continuous provocations. It did not respond to the Authority's security apparati with the occupation authorities in assassinating the mujahidin, which confirms its caution on not entering a dispute with the Authority; thus, revealing its distorted claims.

[Signed] Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas-Palestine
[Dated] Thursday 11.4.1996

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Relieves PLA Commander of Post

JN1104141196 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 11 Apr 96 p 19

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Nicosia/Amman, QUDS PRESS—Reliable Palestinian sources told QUDS PRESS that Yasir 'Arafat, Palestinian Authority president and PLO chairman, relieved Brigadier General Muhammad Qudsiyah, commander of the Palestine Liberation Army [PLA] forces in Jordan, of his post.

In a telephone interview with QUDS PRESS, the source, who asked to remain anonymous, said 'Arafat agreed to relieve Brig. Gen. Qudsiyah of his post and appoint his deputy, Colonel Faysal al-Fahum, to the post of commander of the PLA forces in Jordan which are better known as Badr Forces. Col. al-Fahum is now in Gaza to hold discussions in this regard. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Receives Jordanian Envoy, Other Officials

JN1104152396 Gaza Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation Television Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Apr 96

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat received Jordanian Ambassador 'Umar al-Rifa'i and a German delegation in the Education Ministry in Ramallah today.

President 'Arafat yesterday evening received (Jon Kolf), British Foreign Ministry under secretary for Middle East Affairs, who is visiting Palestine.

President 'Arafat briefed Kolf on developments in the region in general and the Palestinian cause in particular, especially the hardships our people encounter from the Israeli siege.

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Arrives in Bethlehem Governorate From Ramallah

JN1104154396 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Yasir 'Arafat arrived in the Governorate of Bethlehem from the Governorate of Ramallah this afternoon. Colleague Sa'id 'Ayyad is with us on the phone for more details:

[Announcer 'Arif Salim] Good evening, brother Sa'id.

['Ayyad] Good evening, colleague 'Arif.

[Salim] Could you give us more details on this report?

['Ayyad] Yes. President Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Bethlehem a short while ago in God's care and protection. [passage omitted]

The president will meet with various national, official, and public figures, and will visit a number of institutions in the governorate.

Ilyas Frayj, minister of tourism and antiquities and mayor of Bethlehem, welcomed the president and said that his meeting with the people in the Governorate of Bethlehem emphasizes the humanitarian cohesion between the leader and his people. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs: PA Releasing Hamas, Islamic Jihad Detaineees

TA1204074296 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian Authority [PA] has started to release dozens of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad activists who were detained after the last attacks in Israel. Dozens of detainees were released yesterday and more are expected to be released today. Among those released is Sami Abu-Zuhuri, head of the student council at Gaza's Islamic University. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the Palestinian security forces claim those released had nothing to do with the last attacks or with seditious activity against the PA.

Palestinian Affairs: Quray' Says Legislative Council's Sessions 'Successful'

JN1104151496 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Apr 96

[Report by Rashid Hilal in Ramallah]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ahmad Quray', also known as Abu-'Ala', speaker of the Palestinian Legislative Council, said that the three sessions of the first round of the council's meetings, which were held in the past two days and which ended at noon today, were successful. He said: Council committees were set up after the council completed the election of the committees' heads and rapporteurs. The mechanism for the council's work was also worked out, he added.

Quray' said that the committees' work will begin in Gaza on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. These committees will first work out a mode of action and by-laws for their work.

Abu-'Ala' pointed out that the committees will also consider cases, petitions, and complaints referred to them. He said: We actually referred to these committees the petitions and complaints which the Legislative Council received.

He asserted that the Legislative Council's committees will meet again two weeks later. Moreover, he said that all laws and regulations, including the basic law; namely, the provisional constitution, were referred to the council. The provisional constitution will be discussed and endorsed later. In addition, there is the civil service law, which will be referred to the council by the Ministry of Justice.

Abu-'Ala' believes that the deliberations held during the Legislative Council's three sessions are considered recommendations and resolutions. He also discussed the Legislative Council's relationship with the Palestinian media and the media's mode of action during the Legislative Council's sessions.

Palestinian Affairs: Musa Abu-Marzuq Interviewed in U.S. Jail

MM1104143496 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 7-13 Apr 96 pp 20-24

[Interview with Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq, head of Hamas Political Bureau, by Muhammad 'Ali Salih in New York; date not given: "In His First Interview With an Arab Publication in His Prison, Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq Tells AL-MAJALLAH: The U.S. Government Does Not Know Why It Arrested Me"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Salih] Since your arrest you have refused to talk to correspondents. Why begin now?

[Abu-Marzuq] It is true that I turned down many requests by American and Arab journalists but the recent developments in the occupied territories changed my mind, not because I seek personal benefit but because I want to make a contribution in an attempt to end the current problem facing the Palestinian people.

[Salih] How do you view the recent explosions in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv?

[Abu-Marzuq] The recent incidents involving civilians were not the first of their kind. Civilians have been targets for killing since the beginning of the Palestinian problem. Furthermore, the Palestinians were not the first to kill civilians. The Israelis started it. They killed more people, they did not suffer more victims [than the Palestinians].

[Salih] Are you for or against the Jerusalem and Tel Aviv explosions?

[Abu-Marzuq] My opinion is not important. What is important are the causes of the explosions. What are the causes and what is the solution?

[Salih] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has condemned the explosions and he is now arresting Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] supporters.

[Abu-Marzuq] 'Arafat is coming under severe foreign pressure. Had he had a free choice, he would not have arrested them. He knows that the detainees had nothing to do with the recent events. The detentions have not solved any problems and never will. 'Arafat knows that the Israelis tried detention. They arrested

108,000 Palestinians in three years but did not solve the problem?

[Salih] What is your link with Hamas?

[Abu-Marzuq] I am now in prison. So how could I have any link with it? (He laughs)

[Salih] The Islamic organizations in Israel have demonstrated since the explosions. What is your comment?

[Abu-Marzuq] The Palestinians within the Green line [in Israel] are in a special delicate position. They know best their circumstances, their future, and the future of the cause.

[Salih] Do you support or oppose their demonstrations?

[Abu-Marzuq] No comment.

[Salih] Some Arab journalists maintain that the explosions delay the solution to the problem.

[Abu-Marzuq] They know that the problem is over 50 years old and is not a result of some explosions here or there. It is a problem of people thrown out of their homeland.

[Salih] Some Arabs believe that the Palestinians should accept the current solution as a phased step.

[Abu-Marzuq] The problem is not the phased nature of peace but the kind of peace and its direction. What if we took one or two steps and then discovered that we were moving in the wrong direction? Would not retreat then become difficult? That is why I address those people and say: "If, halfway along the road, you discovered that you had lost all your rights, what would the solution be?"

[Salih] Israel wants the United States to hand you over to it. What do you think of that?

[Abu-Marzuq] I would rather not answer the question. I refer it to the lawyer.

(Abu-Marzuq's lawyer responded: "Actually Israel does not want him, because if he was taken there and brought to trial, the Israelis would fear the reaction. They want him to stay here in U.S. prisons until he disappears from the Palestinian political scene.")

[Salih] What is your definition of terrorism?

[Abu-Marzuq] My own definition does not mean anything but the United States and the rest of the world should agree on a specific definition. The American definition is self-contradictory, because the United States supported the Afghan mojahedin against the Russian occupation of their country, and even helped them, but it does not apply the same principle to the Palestinians whose territory has been occupied.

[Salih] What is your opinion of the international summit conference for combating terrorism held in Sharm al-Shaykh in Egypt?

[Abu-Marzuq] It is very clear that each state went to Sharm al-Shaykh with its own special aims. The final statement consisted of propaganda phrases. The only one to benefit was Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres.

[Salih] How do you view the blowing up of the homes of Yahya 'Ayyash and others?

[Abu-Marzuq] The question should be: How do you view the blowing up of 'Ayyash himself? Israeli blew up 'Ayyash without bringing him to any trial and before it could produce any evidence against him. Why did it not blow up the home of Goldstein, the Jew who killed 29 Palestinians in the Ibrahimi mosque in Hebron? Even the automatic rifle he used was given back to his widow.

[Salih] There was some discussion in Congress about whether 'Ayyash was a martyr or a terrorist. What is your view?

[Abu-Marzuq] 'Ayyash was a fighter who resisted occupation and he is a martyr. Thousands of demonstrators attended his funeral as a martyr. Even Yasir 'Arafat said that he was a martyr.

[Salih] But, testifying before Congress, Dr. Hasan 'Abd-al-Rahman, representative of the Palestinian Authority [PA] in Washington, said: "'Ayyash is not a martyr."

[Abu-Marzuq] Had he been asked whilst among Palestinians he would have said something else.

[Salih] Some people claim that you abused American hospitality and plotted against the United States.

[Abu-Marzuq] I abused? I plotted against the United States? What did I do? I did nothing of what they claim.

[Salih] How were you treated when you were arrested at New York's Kennedy Airport?

[Abu-Marzuq] The problem is not the way I was arrested but the arrest itself. Why did they arrest me? Why am I here? Even the U.S. government itself does not know.

[Salih] What do you know about the reasons for your arrest?

[Abu-Marzuq] I know that my name appeared in an Israeli report sent to the U.S. government. The U.S. attorney general herself said so. I have no issue with the United States.

[Salih] How are you treated in prison now?

[Abu-Marzuq] Like any prisoner in solitary confinement under strict guard.

[Salih] Are you satisfied with the meals you are getting?

[Abu-Marzuq] How could anyone be satisfied with prison food? It is very bad.

[Salih] Do they allow you to watch television?

[Abu-Marzuq] All prisoners on the ninth floor cannot watch television. (That applies to the "more dangerous" prisoners)

[Salih] Do you receive any mail and do members of your family and your friends contact you?

[Abu-Marzuq] There is no problem on that score, so long as I am detained here.

[Salih] Do they allow you to pray?

[Abu-Marzuq] Nobody can prevent anyone from praying.

[Salih] Do they allow you to perform Friday prayers with the rest of the Muslim detainees?

[Abu-Marzuq] They said no, for security reasons. (The lawyer intercedes and says: "We have complained about that to the judge who said that Dr. Abu-Marzuq was an Islamic scholar and very religious, and that he did not need Friday prayers")

[Salih] Do they search you when you leave the cell to meet with visitors?

[Abu-Marzuq] Yes, in a bad and humiliating way.

[Salih] How?

[Abu-Marzuq] I will not give details but their search is worse than the prison itself. I do not want to talk about it because it is very humiliating.

[Salih] Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman was detained in this prison and was then sentenced to life imprisonment. What do you think of the sentences passed against him and his colleague?

[Abu-Marzuq] No comment.

[Salih] There is a society for your defense in the United States. What would you like to say to it?

[Abu-Marzuq] First, one must be grateful for every good effort. Second, that is a good duty to the Palestinian cause and should not be focused on the person of Musa Abu-Marzuq. Third, this issue influences the Arabs in the United States directly, and anyone who contributes to it positively deserves thanks.

[Salih] The magazine FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH, with whose staff you had some links, is now viewed with suspicion here and in Britain, especially after the recent explosions.

[Abu-Marzuq] Israel and its friends have for some time been trying to silence FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH magazine but they have failed to prove that it is linked to Hamas. It is an independent magazine founded eight years before Hamas.

[Salih] Some people are claiming that certain Islamic societies and organizations in America and Europe were behind the explosions and that they undermine the reputation of Islam and the Muslims.

[Abu-Marzuq] Some want to find justifications even for Israel, because Israel has failed to prove the authenticity of these charges. Even the British foreign secretary himself has denied the existence of any evidence of financial aid for Hamas from the Islamic organizations in Britain.

[Salih] What is your opinion of your lawyer Stanley Cohen?

[Abu-Marzuq] He is an excellent lawyer.

[Salih] What effect does the fact that he is Jewish have?

[Abu-Marzuq] There is no problem with Judaism as a religion. The problem is in the existence of a Jewish Zionist movement which drove the Palestinian people out of their land. If Muslims drove some other people, say Christian people, from their land I would say the same thing because the problem does not lie in the religion of the unjust but in the injustice itself.

[Salih] Does Sudan assist Hamas in its operations?

[Abu-Marzuq] Is there any evidence?

[Salih] How do you view the current government in Sudan?

[Abu-Marzuq] Foreign governments should let the Sudanese rule themselves in their own way. I believe that democracy and freedom are problems each people should deal with on their own. I have not been following the recent developments in Sudan but I always prefer to see any country ruled democratically through a multiparty system and freedom of choice.

[Salih] And what do you think of the armed confrontation between the military and the Islamists in Algeria?

[Abu-Marzuq] Two mistakes were committed in Algeria. The first was committed by the military who forcibly aborted the first real experiment in self-expression by the people, and the second and greater was committed by the other side in facing the military with acts of violence.

[Salih] Do you mean that the Islamic movements should not have resorted to violence?

[Abu-Marzuq] The problem should have been shifted to the streets, to the masses because it is a problem of all the masses and not of a particular Islamic group.

[Salih] Are you a terrorist, as the U.S. government claims?

[Abu-Marzuq] Ask the U.S. government.

[Salih] Did you help with the explosions, as the Israeli Government claims?

[Abu-Marzuq] Israeli knows more than anyone else that these operations are carried out by the military wing of the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions. Others, including the politicians, have nothing to do with that.

[Salih] THE WASHINGTON POST claimed that you helped Hamas when you lived in Washington.

[Abu-Marzuq] When they arrested me at Kennedy Airport I told them: Yes, I belong to the political wing of Hamas. I did not deny that. My meetings with all the Arab officials were all open and in the name of Hamas.

[Salih] THE NEW YORK TIMES said that you used to collect funds for Hamas.

[Abu-Marzuq] I, thank God, am not good at collecting funds. Those who accuse me have to produce evidence and reveal the names of those who gave me funds.

[Salih] The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Department says that you violated its laws.

[Abu-Marzuq] They know that that is not true and they know that I did not apply for permanent residence (the green card). What happened was that my wife applied for such residence in the lottery that takes place every year, and she won. And it was she who, in her own name, applied for me to get what she got.

[Salih] What is the solution to the problem between the Palestinians and the Israelis?

[Abu-Marzuq] The Palestinians must attain their right to an independent state.

[Salih] How?

[Abu-Marzuq] By using all legitimate means.

[Salih] Would that be by political means?

[Abu-Marzuq] By using all legitimate means.

[Salih] Violence?

[Abu-Marzuq] By using all legitimate means.

[Salih] Is there any possibility of agreement with President Yasir 'Arafat?

[Abu-Marzuq] Our cause is the same and anything is possible in the context of what I have said.

[Salih] Are you not opposed to what 'Arafat is doing?

[Abu-Marzuq] As I have already said, 'Arafat is coming under foreign pressures. Furthermore, we are opposed to any agreements with an unknown purpose or future.

[Salih] Where will the U.S. campaign against so-called Islamic terrorism end?

[Abu-Marzuq] Israel is trying to monopolize the campaign, and the United States grants its wish in that respect. That is wrong and should not continue.

[Salih] Do you expect a confrontation between the United States and Islam?

[Abu-Marzuq] The United States cannot confront Islam as a religion. On the contrary, they say positive things about the Islamic religion but they link the violence which occurs to Islam, which is wrong.

[Salih] But some people do carry out acts of violence in the name of Islam?

[Abu-Marzuq] Some acts of violence are carried out by certain Islamic organizations but such acts should not be blamed on Islam as a religion because that would mean that Islam becomes the accused.

Egypt

Egypt: Paper Notes Mubarak's Support for Libya, Sudan, Iraq

NC1204110996 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0620 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 12 Apr (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR newspaper says Egypt has very clearly declared its stand on the dangers currently threatening the Arab nation. It adds that Egypt, represented by President Husni Mubarak, has rejected everything that might threaten the region's countries and harm their sovereignty.

In its editorial, "Egypt and the Principled Stands," today, the paper says President Husni Mubarak rejected charges leveled at Libya, that he demanded sufficient evidence, and that he rejected any threats against the Libyan Jamahiriyah. At the same time, the paper adds, President Mubarak rejected any measures imposing an arms embargo against Sudan and anything that might threaten Sudan's territorial integrity.

The paper notes that Egypt has firmly declared its rejection of any measures aimed at blockading Sudan that could aggravate its economic crisis and the Sudanese people's troubles. Egypt also rejected suspect moves threatening Iraq's unity and announced that it will stand firmly against any measures increasing the Iraqi people's suffering caused by the economic blockade that has been imposed on them for five years now.

AL-AKHBAR says that Egypt emphasized its rejection of Israel's provocative acts against the Palestinian people, Israel's collective punishment of them, embarrassing the Palestinian Authority and pressuring Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat.

The paper notes in this respect Egypt's assertion that President 'Arafat and the Palestinian Authority are not responsible for the terrorist operations that take place and that Israel is responsible for such operations.

The paper says Egypt rejected the condemnation of Iran because of what is being said about its attempts to develop its nuclear capabilities if a firm stand is not adopted toward Israel and its atomic arsenal, which threatens the security and peace of the entire Middle East.

The paper emphasizes that Egypt has been and will remain the claimant of principles and a country that never relinquishes its responsibilities as a key, effective force in the region. Egypt, the paper adds, might hold different views than another Arab country, but it never forsakes its role in supporting and standing by that country.

The paper notes that President Husni Mubarak has always shown his adherence to this clear and committed Egyptian line by supporting and backing all Arab nations. This, the paper adds, is despite any disagreement that might emerge from time to time without affecting the essence of Egypt's brotherly ties with any Arab or Islamic country.

Egypt: Paper—Egypt Ultimate Loser in Anti-Sudan Sanctions

NC1104194996 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 6 Apr 96 p 1

[Article by Chief Editor Jamal Badawi: "No To the Starvation of the Sudanese People"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Well done, Egypt, for the stand on the proposal to impose military and economic sanctions on Sudan! Ambassador Nabil al-'Arabi, Egypt's permanent UN envoy, did well when he announced Egypt's refusal to take measures that will damage the Sudanese people's interests, or help partition Sudan and upset the balance of power there.

The United States and Ethiopia asked the Security Council to impose an embargo on the shipping of weapons to Sudan. This simply means letting south Sudan fall easy prey to secessionist agent John Garang, who receives armed support from Israel and other countries to implement the wicked imperialist scheme to separate the south from the north and create a state — hostile to Egypt — that controls the sources of the Nile and threatens Egypt's lifeline.

There is no better proof of this than the secessionists' destruction of the Junqali Canal project, which would have provided Egypt and Sudan with five billion cubic meters of Nile water. The result was the loss of all this water in the marshes. In the secessionists' view, this was better than having Sudan and Egypt benefiting from this water.

It has always been Egypt's unwavering policy to protect Sudan's territorial integrity and confront all the imperialist plans that sought the secession of the south and the setting up of an African state against the Arab north. Negotiations with the British occupation collapsed because of Sudan. Modern history recalls the honorable stand of the Wafd governments, a stand of commitment to the eternal ties between Sudan and Egypt and to Sudan's territorial integrity — and of refusal to squander a single inch of its soil. It is within this commitment that Mustafa al-Nahhas uttered the eternal saying: I would rather have my hand cut off than let south Sudan secede.

Our opposition to the government of al-Bashir and his clique and our denunciation of the dictatorial regime in Khartoum do not mean that we should be swept away with the idea of punishing the Sudanese people, starving them through an economic siege. What happened to the Iraqi people, and the current siege of the Palestinian people, depriving it of bread, are enough.

Starvation is a criminal weapon, and is not less lethal than the chemical weapons banned by international charters and ethical norms. However, the United States, which claims to be the leader of freedom and democracy in the world, has abandoned its heritage and principles for the sake of appeasing the Jews and gaining their votes. The U.S. compass has started to move toward the single objective of enabling the Israelis to impose their hegemony, control, and sovereignty. The U.S. decisionmakers have become a puppet in the hands of Jews, who pull that puppet's strings as they like.

The famine now imposed on the Palestinian people is pushing them to the edge of suicide and explosion. The extent of this preplanned policy, which aims to turn the clock back and return the region to its pre-June 1967 state, is now quite evident.

Israeli hands are sowing corruption in the Middle East so as to encircle and throttle Egypt. They are now moving in the Bab el- Mandeb, the Gulf, and south Sudan so as to make Egypt lose its vitality and solidity and become desperate and poor. The body dies when the heart becomes weak.

Wake up, o Arabs! Beware of the tomb that Israel is digging for you with the help of the United States.

Egypt: Paper Lauds Egypt's Opposition Anti-Sudan Sanctions

NC1204092396 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0622 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 12 Apr (MENA) — The AL-AKHBAR newspaper describes Egypt's opposition to the imposition of economic and military sanctions against Sudan as a distinguished civilized stand. It adds that this stand is a significant message addressed by President Husni Mubarak to the Khartoum rulers to declare to them the difference in dealings and how deeds fit the words.

In its editorial today, the paper notes that when Egypt says that it has no disagreement with the Sudanese people, its deeds very clearly confirm this fact. The paper points out that the Sudanese people realize this fact and observe Egypt's persistent efforts not to turn them to a victim in a crime committed not by them, but by the Khartoum rulers by sheltering and covering terrorists.

The paper remarks that Egypt, which is most harmed by the Khartoum leaders' failure to hand over three suspects in the evil attempt to assassinate President Mubarak, is the same Egypt that is exerting efforts in cooperation with the Nonaligned Movement in the Security Council. The aim is to ensure that no international sanctions negatively affecting the Sudanese people who are already suffering from a stifling economic crisis are adopted.

Egypt: U.S. 'Escalatory Policy' on Libya Criticized

NC1104123696 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic
6 Apr 96 pp 1, 3

[Article by Mafuz al-Ansari: "America and What It Wants: Libya's al-Rabitah and Israel's Dimona. Is There Really Love That Kills?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] O "Head of the world" and its handsome boy; O you who sits on the throne of the universe as king of kings and emperor of emperors; O you who has the final word on peace and war, on surviving and perishing; yours is the ultimate verdict of life or death; O our "gentle, dreamer boy" Bill Clinton; O great president, the one who commands the affairs of the universe from his humble position in the oval office inside the White House in Washington. Indeed you are all that and much more.

Slow down, have compassion, have mercy on us. The retribution for the affectionate should not be a "missile." The reward to those who are infatuated by you, those who are passionately in love with you, cannot be the arrows of death or charges of destruction and ruin that harvest their souls, destroy their homes, and ruin their livelihoods and sources of their daily bread. They are all opening their arms to you and your country; they are hopeful for you and your country's kindness. So why do you build fences of isolation around them? Why the siege of starvation, sickness, and deprivation; why the policies of "containment," clashing, "punishment," and war; why the return to the policy of escalation and confrontation; and why the approach of the "cold war," "the edge of the bottomless pit," and the regional "alliances and agreements" with one party against the others?

Before I get too far away from what I wanted to say today, let me apologize first for attributing all these "acts," "turns," and "lines and policies," the renewed or the repeated, to you as if you were responsible for them, when you are clear of all that.

Certain as I am that the American president is the strongest man in the world, not because of the force and capabilities available to his country, but by the powers entrusted to him—the powers he controls in his hand, makes with his pen, or utters with his lips—I absolve you of this new "entanglement" your country is being pushed into and, in turn, pushing the world into. This entanglement is a new disaster, another "cold" or hot war; a war extending from the eastern ends of the world at the South China Sea and Taiwan strait, through "Libya" at the northern end of the African continent, to the western world in Latin America and on the shores of the Pacific, the Atlantic, and the Caribbean. We should not forget your generous hands and your "preventive," containing, and punitive diplomacy in west Asia and on the two sides of the Gulf.

O you "handsome dreamer" and emperor of the universe, I "absolve" you of all this. I know how busy you are and I know your interests. You are the "man" who dedicated his electoral campaign and filled his electoral ticket with programs that defended the rights of "minorities". Topping the list of these minorities were "gays" and homosexuals. You defended their right to join the army or stay in its ranks after their "hobbies" were exposed. You defended their right to "marry" one another. You entered their battle forcefully and full of zeal. You faced up to public opinion, the Pentagon, and all the American traditions and values. Unfortunately, your success was slight, because they did not understand you well.

From your presidential position, and motivated by your human and cultural composition, you triggered a great social battle in defense of the "unclassified," the "unlisted," and those "not benefiting" from social programs and the umbrella of social insurance and justice. But again your share was failure. Nothing of your humanitarian programs was achieved. I believe that the reason behind that failure was that they did not understand your goal, your good intentions, and your humane nature.

This is why Mr. handsome president, I absolve you of that "violence" and "escalation" of war which your country is pushing the world into, trying to sink it underneath.

I believe it is the policy or strategy of the "real establishment", the "shadow" establishment, or the "covert group of darkness" which contemplates, updates, and develops its tactics in light of strategic data it presents or creates.

I don't think that this is your job, although it ultimately needs your endorsement. But I have a friendly reproach, for which I beg for your forbearance and tolerance. You ratify and bless all these "diabolic programs" and add to them whatever agrees with your personal pursuits or temporary objectives, specifically whatever serves the presidential elections battle you will enter in November.

I hope my chat with you will be as wide as the "strategic operation theater" on which the "escalation policy" your country pursues today extends; from the Asian Pacific coasts to the American coast, and from the African and European Atlantic coasts to the American Atlantic, going through the heart of Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East.

Let me compare one case with another, similar case. Let us compare the "Libyan case" and "your claims," or what you offer as facts, about the al-Rabitah chemical weapons plant with the "Israeli case" and the announcement by Tel Aviv and its media that radioactive materials have leaked from the "Dimona reactor" and that nuclear waste is being buried underground, resulting in water contamination, not only in Israel, but in other neighboring countries.

Do you not agree that when you or your Administration accuse Libya of manufacturing these dangerous weapons after "many harsh" years of blockade imposed by your country on this small country, you are criticizing yourself and your own Administration and accusing your country of misjudgment, failure, injustice, and inhumanity. If, according to your logic, the blockade has not prevented the regime you wanted to punish from carrying out such dangerous programs and projects, what purpose do the blockade and punishment serve?

It means you want to punish peoples and humiliate them, not punish governments and rulers. It means you want to stop the growth and progress of these countries. It means you want to divide the region and sever the bonds among its countries and peoples. It means the United States wants to punish its friends and enemies alike and with the same punishment — blockade and isolation. A blockaded country is isolated. Its neighboring country is also blockaded, though to a lesser degree, and its interests are greatly harmed.

You have boasted about your space satellites, their remote- sensing capability, and your technology used for peace and war — this technology that can "predict the future," that can monitor the movement of ants, and that can penetrate the depths of lands and seas. For five full years you have been indiscriminately destroying civilian and military factories in Iraq. You have been interrogating people there about the secrets of Iraq's nuclear programs. For five years you have been searching places, spreading spies, and recruiting agents. After all this, you say you still do not know. You still insist on maintaining the blockade, on punishment, and on inflicting humiliation. For how long will you continue and what do you want exactly?

In your statements and decisions, why don't you distinguish between things that incriminate you, prove your failure, and confirm your bad intentions against innocent and down-trodden people and facts, long-term goals, and "banned" and not so innocent strategies?

Believe me, O handsome and dreamer president. You have disappointed those who love you. You have exposed those who are trying to defend you. We have a popular proverb that says: "He who relies on your protection is vulnerable." It seems that violence and cruelty are an instinct in you. War, cold or hot, is your permanent and constant strategy. If it disappears or its reasons disappear, you search for it and create it from nothingness.

President al-Sadat trusted you and surrendered to your willpower. The result was that Egypt was ostracized, isolated, and expelled from the Arab League that it helped establish and in which it injected life. The result was that Egypt was threatened with expulsion from organizations that it helped establish, such as the OAU, the Non-Aligned Movement, and the Group of 77. The result was that you pushed Egypt toward the brink, forcing al-Sadat, who led his country in war and secured for it victory and liberation, to quarrel with his own people.

It is your right to be concerned about your own cause, your reelection as president of the universe, but it is not our duty to go along with you and bless your plans when you practice double standards. You are preparing your armies, drafting your programs, and assembling your troops and fleets in the Mediterranean waters, searching for support and for staging points to attack and severely punish a peaceful people, a neighboring and fraternal people. The charge is false, the charge is fictitious, the charge is meant to please the Jews, who have votes and money. The charge constitutes a condemnation of you, your country, your administration, and your departments.

O grand president, the handsome and dreamer president. We will continue this discussion because I seek the facts. What do you want? What are you looking for? What kind of illusion are you aspiring to? And until we meet again, I would like to tell you that today's Egypt is not yesterday's Egypt. It is not through violence and injustice that you win friends and allies. It is true "some love kills." Regrettably, our people love you, or, more precisely, used to love you. If you are really looking for friendship justly and righteously, do not lose your asset. Till we meet again.

Egypt: Egyptian Carrier Begins Transporting Libyan Pilgrims

NC1204064596 Cairo MENA in English 2115 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, April 11-(MENA)—Egypt Air today started airlifting Libyan pilgrims from Libya's Benghazi and Tripoli airports into the Saudi territories. Four flights today carried about one thousand Libyan pilgrims from Tripoli Airport, said Ramadan 'Abd-al-Mun'im, director of the Cairo International Airport's pilgrimage hall.

Egypt: Contacts Said Under Way To Extradite Fugitives From Jordan

NC1204090596 Cairo MENA in English 0807 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, 12 Apr (MENA)—Minister of Interior Hasan al-Alfi announced that contacts are under way with the Jordanian authorities to extradite to Egypt 57 fugitive members of a terrorist group attempting to revive al-Takfir Wa al-Hijrah [the Repudiation and Renunciation] Organization.

He was quoted by Cairo press as saying that security forces arrested 245 members of the group on Wednesday [10 April].

Egypt: Opposition Paper Criticizes Israel's Action in Lebanon

NC1204085896 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0625 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 12 Apr (MENA)—In its editorial today, AL-WAFD says that the Israeli aircraft that bombed peaceful areas near Beirut not only dropped bombs and dynamite but also brought down all slogans of peace sung by Israeli leaders.

It adds that those who allege that the Israeli Government committed this crime to strengthen its position in the next elections are mistaken.

AL-WAFD says that if the Israeli electorate is going to vote for a government intent on violating international laws and slighting the international community, this is a tragedy bigger than the invasion itself. This means, the paper adds, that the Israeli people do not like peace and support murder and bloodshed; it means goodbye to peace.

Libya

Libya: Foreign Minister Denies Chemical Weapons Plant

NC1104164696 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1552 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 11 Apr (MENA)—'Umar al-Muntasir, secretary of the Libyan People's General Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation, "foreign minister," has again denied that there is a chemical weapons plant underground or above ground or that there is anything that has the shape of such a plant on the Libyan territory. At a news conference he held this afternoon, al-Muntasir commented on the statement that U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry made during his recent visit to Cairo on the presence of an alleged underground plant. He stressed that the plant does not exist, except in the mind of CIA agencies and Defense Secretary's.

Al-Muntasir said that there is no chemical plant for the manufacture of chemical weapons in the entire Libyan Jamahiriyah, either under or above ground. He said that the statement made by the CIA five years ago about the al-Rabitah plant was the first lie, after it was shown that the al-Rabitah plant produces medicines. It now exports medicines to numerous Arab countries and shipments of medicines have indeed arrived in Egypt and Morocco.

Al-Muntasir said that the U.S. officials, whether the U.S. intelligence services or the Secretary of Defense, are not sure of their information about the alleged plant, which would reportedly begin production at the end of this decade, or in a year. He noted that President Husni Mubarak pointed out that there is nothing indicating that such a plant exists.

Al-Muntasir stressed that he challenges the U.S. Secretary of Defense to prove his allegations or the existence of anything resembling such a plant. He noted that this is another lie by the CIA against the Libyan Jamahiriyah because of the latter's opposition to U.S. domination of the world. He pointed out that the U.S. attempt is aimed at covering up the nuclear leak from the Dimona nuclear reactor in the Negev desert. He wondered how the United States gives itself the right to claim it is protecting the world from weapons of mass destruction when there are actual incidents having to do with the Dimona nuclear reactor that Israel admits and that the United States does not denounce, or even protest to Israel. He said the U.S. claims are unfounded, and that these claims are pretexts made up by the CIA in order to do something against Libya. He said that Libya is waiting for irrefutable evidence that the Secretary of Defense may have. [passage missing, not transmitted by source]

In response to a question about Washington's deliberately making this statement in Cairo to affect Libyan-Egyptian relations, al-Muntasir said William Perry's statement was wrong. He stressed his country's concern for its good ties with Egypt and the Egyptian people. He noted that nothing can affect the ties between the two countries, ties that are steadily growing. He said that Libya does not doubt Egypt's position on Libya in the least, and stressed that Egypt is as careful of Libya's interests as it is about it's own.

Al-Muntasir pointed out that one of the most important reasons for Perry's making his announcement about Libya in Egypt is that Perry was seeking to cover up the reports on the leak from the Israeli reactor in Dimona in the Negev Desert.

On a proposal to send a European/Arab delegation to verify Perry's statement, al-Muntasir said we are asking for committees because there are nothing in fact [as received]. He said that earlier, Libya had asked the United Nations to send a delegation to Libya to ascertain that there were no training camps, but the United States refused, because the report would be positive, in Libya's favor, and would embarrass the United States and reveal its intentions against Libya.

In response to a question regarding the meeting that is to be held this evening at the Arab League between the seven-member Arab committee tasked with discussing the Lockerbie matter and the five-member African committee, al-Muntasir said this meeting will not be held at Libya's request but rather in agreement between these two committees, to come up with a peaceful solution to the Libyan-West crisis. He said it was decided to hold the meeting in order to take advantage of the opportunity of the presence of the Arab and African foreign ministers in Egypt. He pointed out that the meeting will discuss the decisions made by the Arab League Council concerning the Lockerbie crisis, which were presented to the three Western countries—which refused to discuss what could be done in the next stage. Al-Muntasir voiced the hope that there will be coordination to draw up a working program before considering the renewal of the embargo on Libya in July.

In response to a question on whether there is a connection between Libya's hand-over of the Egyptian airliner and the Lockerbie case, the Libyan foreign minister said there is no connection other than the fact that the United States is scheming to take measures against Libya and that it was displeased by the Libyan position on the plane hijacking. Al-Muntasir stressed that Egypt and Libya have the same interests.

On the Libyan role in containing the dispute between Egypt and Sudan over the extradition of the three defendants, 'Umar al-Muntasir said Libya has tried unceasingly, and continues to try, to help resolve the problem between Egypt and Sudan. He noted that this has nothing to do with the Security Council, and that Egypt's position is clear: namely, that it will not accept the imposition of sanctions and a boycott, the starvation of the Sudanese people — and that no one should interfere between Egypt and Sudan.

On the disturbances that occurred in Libya during the past two weeks, al-Muntasir stressed that there was just one incident, by some 17 prisoners who escaped from prison. He added that the reports that said that 400 prisoners were involved were not true. He noted that some of these prisoners were captured and others killed during the chase, and that the situation is now normal.

Regarding Libya's call to hold an urgent Arab summit, al-Muntasir said he will bring this matter up today with the Arab League's Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid at the joint meeting of the seven-member Arab committee and the five-member African committee.

He stressed that the Arab nation is now going through a difficult time and noted that alliances are reemerging, such as the Baghdad Pact and the Turkish-Israeli alliance.

Regarding Libya's absence from the Sharm al-Shaykh summit, al-Muntasir said: First, Libya was not invited. Secondly, the summit turned into nothing but a defense of Israel, no more and no less. Regrettably, the Arabs got embroiled in it.

Al-Muntasir expressed the hope that, for their own sake, the Arabs will wake up. He added that the Arabs have forgotten the wars of 1948, 1956, 1967, and 1973, and stressed that Libya is not advocating war but a just peace.

Concluding his statements, al-Muntasir said his country is ready to talk to any country that wishes to have a dialogue with Libya. He noted that a dialogue is under way, through the EU's troika, with the exception of Britain which refuses to be involved.

Libya: Envoy Asks UN To Lift Sanctions Following 'Fresh Evidence'

LD1204090096 Tripoli JANA in Arabic
0715 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 12 Apr — The permanent delegate of the great Jamahiriyah [to the United Nations] has reiterated that the fresh evidence on the killing of the English policewoman Yvonne Fletcher has proven that American intelligence was behind her murder in 1984.

He added in a message to the chairman of the UN Security Council, following the reports in the London based GUARDIAN and AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT on the killing of the English policewoman, that the evidence has exonerated the great Jamahiriyah and proven the falsehood of the accusation concocted against it by American intelligence.

He said: The fresh evidence before you has proven that our defense against the accusations levelled against the two Libyan nationals in the so-called the Lockerbie case was right. We are still certain that our two nationals are innocent and we believe it was not right for the Security Council to allow itself to be led by unfounded American allegations and impose unjust sanctions against the great Jamahiriyah, despite the emerging evidence which has exonerated the two Libyan nationals from any blame and proven that the accusation was hatched by American intelligence — a fact which explains America's stubborn rejection of the initiatives proposed by the great Jamahiriyah and the Arab League to resolve this case. These initiatives have also been supported by regional and international bodies.

The brother delegate concluded his message by saying: We are hoping that the fresh information will be an incentive for the Security Council to reconsider its decisions and lift its unjust measures against the great Jamahiriyah.

Libya: JANA Claims New 'Evidence' of U.S. Involvement in UK Officer's Death

LD1104150996 Tripoli JANA in Arabic
0750 GMT 11 Apr 96

[Unattributed article: "Involvement of U.S. Intelligence in Killing English Policewoman"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, 11 Apr — At 2200 yesterday, the English television Channel 4 transmitted a documentary on the involvement of the U.S. intelligence in the killing of the British policewoman Yvonne Fletcher outside the Arab Libyan People's Bureau [embassy] in London in 1984.

The program started with an introduction confirming that the White House under the Reagan administration was obsessed with hostility against the Great Jamahiriyah and the leader of the revolution [al-Qadhdhafi].

Due to the presence of that group of crazy cowboys inside the White House, England was driven to be hostile to the Great Jamahiriyah at a time when Europeans were constantly interested in maintaining positive relations with the Great Jamahiriyah.

The program showed many interviews, which included testimonies of ordinary English people who were eyewitnesses when the incident took place, former officials of English military intelligence, post-mortem experts, arms experts, voice analysts who are usually treated as experts in courts of law, professional cameramen of a film crew who by chance were at the square at the time of the incident, and an English woman employee who worked at a U.S. accounting company in building no. 3 at the same square. The testimonies have disclosed new serious evidence supported by scientific proofs which confirm that all previous reports on the incident were distorted and fabricated.

We will give you more details on this program.

Sudan

Sudan: Vice President, Rebel Leaders Give News Conference

AB1104195596 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The first vice president of the Republic, Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, says that the charter for peace signed in Khartoum yesterday evening between the Government of Sudan and the Southern Sudan Independence Movement [SSIM], led by Riak Machar [Teny Dhurgon], and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement [SPLM], under the leadership of Kerubino Kuanyin Bol, was witnessed by the Sudanese people, representatives of foreign diplomatic missions, national leaders and state officials. At a press conference held today at the Friendship Hall in Khartoum, attended by members of the SSIM, SPLM, and representatives of the local and international media, he affirmed the commitment of all parties to the provisions of the charter. Major General al-Zubayr described the charter as a major step toward a more comprehensive agreement to enable peace to prevail countrywide.

He stressed that the charter was an expression of the free will of the entire Sudanese people far removed from external interference. He said the charter had outlined broad and basic principles for a peace agreement. He added that the charter was the property of the people, and reiterated during the press conference his appeal to John Garang's faction to join the peace march.

He expressed the hope that political and peaceful dialogue would continue toward bringing the bloodshed in the south to an end. He congratulated the Sudanese people for this achievement and urged them to support and bless it in order to realize final peace.

Speaking during the press conference, Dr. Riak Machar stressed the wish of the southern citizens to achieve peace and end the bloodshed. In this connection, he said that the charter which had now been signed provided a mechanism to end the civil strife in the south. He went on to say that the charter guaranteed the people's basic rights and provided a framework for resolving issues of national unity peacefully.

Dr. Machar reviewed the charter's political provisions, which provided for the establishment of a coordination council for the southern states to assist in finalizing the agreement. He called on the sons of the nation and peace-loving nations to support the charter and the peace programme. He renewed his call on Garang's faction to join the march for peace and sign the charter.

At the same venue, Mr. Kerubino Kuanyin Bol said the charter was a basic step, which would be crowned with an agreement. He called on the other factions to join the peace march, reiterating that war was Sudan's major problem. He concluded by saying: What we have been demanding has been achieved in the form of federalism and equality.

It is worth mentioning that the holders of the press conference replied to various questions from the correspondents.

Sudan: Rebel Officials React to Peace Deal, Denounce Riak

AB1104190196 London BBC World Service in English 1505 GMT 11 Apr 96

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Well, the UK representative of the South Sudan Independence Movement, Dr. Wani Tombe, was very anxious to give us his reaction to the peace deal. He is not very happen about it. Josephine Hazely asked him what he felt about the agreement:

[Begin recording] [Tombe] I am very angry, I am very saddened, and very ashamed of what Riak Machar has done to the people of south Sudan. He let us down because he went to Khartoum against the objectives and the principles of the movement. We had wanted a better, honorable peace for our people, not piecemeal peace which actually portray us as political opportunists, individuals who seek positions from Khartoum Government.

[Hazely] So, what are you going to do about this?

[Tombe] For myself, I have resigned my position as SSIM [South Sudan Independence Movement] representative in the whole of UK and also withdrawn my membership of the movement.

[Hazely] Now, but is this a surprise move, though, of Riak Machar? Didn't you know anything about it? Surely, he must be talking about it to you!

[Tombe] Not at all, not at all.

[Hazely] How come he has done this about face turn? You know him as a man. Why do you think he did this?

[Tombe] Riak Machar is a double-face individual. When he is with us, he always talks to us as colleagues, as revolutionaries, as fighters, and he always says that he represents the objectives which is, the secession of southern Sudan and independence for our people. Unfortunately, he was hiding from us the true Riak Machar, the true opportunist, the true individual who wanted everything for himself, and for his henchmen, and for his tribe. Riak Machar is a tribalist and he is not actually doing this for the sake of southern Sudan but for the (?Nuwer) people only.

[Hazely] You know, perhaps, it is not all lost yet, perhaps you have not lost everything yet in the south because my understanding is that the Sudanese Government in Khartoum will organize a referendum whereby all of you will have a chance to decide the way in which you want to be governed. Is that not encouraging?

[Tombe] This is a lie, because if you remember, if you read the agreement very carefully, the referendum is subject to political and social stability, which is a qualitative statement. It depends on their own definition how and when it is going to be stable. It can be one year, it can be 20 years. So, we cannot actually guarantee that there is going to be a referendum on behalf of southern Sudan or by the southern Sudan people. [end recording]

That's Wani Tombe of the South Sudan Independence Movement. Well, there have been all the queuing up outside our studio to comment on the peace agreement. Richard Mula, one of the most recent defectors from John Garang's SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] also came along. Robin White asked him if he thought the Khartoum deal would strengthen the resolve and unity of those still fighting:

[Begin recording] [Mula] Now that the traitors are out of the way, I think this paves the way for the other movements to come together, reconcile, and fight the enemy. I think this is a between opportunity for us now to work now against the common enemy together, because Riak Machar and his SSIM were the confusing elements in our struggle for all these years and it is good that he has come out and he has sold himself to the government in Khartoum. We wish him good-bye.

[White] Would you consider rejoining John Garang?

[Mula] We would....[pauses] I would consider talking with John Garang, reconciling with the SPLM [South Sudan Liberation Movement] and SPLA, and considering ways and methods of working together.

[White] Do you think he'd want you back?

[Mula] I think so because we are all struggling for a common objective — that is, to secure the right of self-determination for the people of southern Sudan. I think Garang will be interested in working with us.

[White] So, what will you now do? Will you be on the telephone to John Garang, saying let's talk?

[Mula] Definitely, I will find ways of getting in touch with John Garang and we will find a way of reconciling. [end recording]

Sudan: Rebel Statements Made After Peace Deal

AB1104183796 London BBC World Service in English 1505 GMT 11 Apr 96

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The two southern Sudan rebel leaders, Riak Machar of the South Sudan Independence Movement, SSIM, and Carabino Kuany Bol of an SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] faction, who signed a peace deal in Khartoum yesterday, showed their faces at a press conference today. The deal was done while the original SPLA of John Garang is still waging a big campaign against government forces in the south east of the country. The agreement includes a referendum in the south and a measure of federal autonomy for the region. Our correspondent, Alfred Taban, was at the press conference. Josephine Hazely asked him how the two rebels justified signing the agreement:

[Begin recording] [Taban] Carabino Kuany Bol, who is the head of the SPLA Bahr al-Ghazal group, said the message of war has reached all homes and that the southerners have made that point loud and clear by their fighting that has continued for 13 years, and he thinks that it is time the arms are laid down and a negotiated settlement is found.

[Hazely] Now, what about Riak Machar's people? What did he have to say about why he gave in?

[Taban] Yeah, Riak also said things along this same line. He said that war is actually not a means in itself, it's just a way of, you know, of making known one's grievances and discontent, and the southerners have made their discontent and their grievances loud and clear.

[Hazely] What else did they say? Did they talk about what positions they will hold and how they are going to work toward this peace as they see it?

[Taban] No, there were actually no details about positions. What they do say is that the next stage is the working out of the details because they said what they signed was a political charter, a declaration of principles, and they will not go into details in, you know, deciding how power is to be shared, you know, and the south is run. [end recording]

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia: CDLR Rejects Mediation, Vows To Recover Its 'Rights'

MM1104155996

[FBIS Report] As a further development in the ongoing dispute between the London-based Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights of Saudi Arabia (CDLR), led by Dr. Muhammad al-Mas'ari, and the Islamic Reform Movement, led by Dr. Sa'd al-Faqih, MMU has received by fax an approximately 800-word statement in Arabic dated 9 April 1996 and attributed to the "mediation committee" between the two. In the statement, the mediation committee tries to set the record straight with regard to its own conduct in the dispute and accuses Dr. al-Mas'ari of "betrayal, and of making a pledge but regrettably not keeping his promise and not abiding by his commitments." The statement says that "all possible means have been exhausted to convince him not to persist, but he was intent on breaching the agreement."

MMU has also received by fax CDLR "Statement No. 44" in Arabic, dated 10 April 1996, responding to the mediation committee's statement. The approximately 3,000-word CDLR statement gives a detailed account of the events and actions taken by the two protagonists and the mediation committee. The statement accuses Dr. al-Faqih of reneging on the agreement and seizing the CDLR's funds, assets, equipment (worth a total of nearly 200,000 pounds sterling), and communication channels, including the telephone and fax lines and computer equipment and files. It also accuses the mediation committee of being biased and ineffective.

The concluding passage of the statement sums up the situation as follows:

"1. [The CDLR] would not have raised this issue, had it not been for the statement issued by the mediation committee dated 9 April 96 and the accusations therein of betrayal and broken promises by the CDLR's official spokesman, and the fact that it was widely circulated by fax inside the Arabian Peninsula and abroad.

"2. The facts mentioned [in the CDLR statement] unquestionably show that Dr. Sa'd [al-Faqih] and the biased mediation committee are the ones who most deserve to be called traitors.

"3. The CDLR funds that Dr. Sa'd has seized in collusion with the failed mediation committee will be repaid on Judgment Day.

"4. The timing of the statement coincides with the regime's fierce campaign against the CDLR and its official spokesman, and therefore it is part of and serves that campaign.

"5. The semi-final agreement has now become null and void, and therefore the CDLR intends to use all possible means to recover its possessions and rights."

United Arab Emirates

UAE: Security Council Urged To Discuss Israel's Measures, Arms

JN1104164596 Manama WAKH in English
1505 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New York, April 11 (GNA)—United Arab Emirates (UAE) Permanent Delegate at the United Nations Muhammad Jasim Samhan asked the president of the Security Council to convene an emergency meeting of the council to discuss Israel's closure of the West Bank and Gaza, its repressive measures against the Palestinians, and Tel Aviv's possession of a large quantity of nuclear weapons. The request was contained in a letter addressed to the president of the Security Council by Samhan who currently presides over the UN Arab group.

A mini-Arab committee, comprising ambassadors from Egypt, Tunisia, and Arab League led by Samhan met today with president of the Security Council and discussed with him the sufferings of the Palestinian people as a result of Israel's siege of the West [Bank] and Gaza.

They also discussed the dangers posed to the region by the Israeli nuclear arsenal, especially the leak of the Dimona reactor and its adverse effects on the health of humans, the environment, and economics, not only on the regional level, but also on the level of neighboring regions.

The council's president showed understanding of the Arab group's view and told the members of the committee that he would present their request to the council's informal consultations session due to be held later.

Yemen

Yemen: 'Intensified Military Preparations' in al-Hadidah

MM1104132296 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
11 Apr 96 pp 1,6

[Report by Iqbal 'Ali 'Abdallah in Sanaa: "Yemeni Military Preparations in Anticipation of Failure of French Mediation Efforts With Eritrea"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Informed sources in Sanaa revealed yesterday that "the city of al-Hadidah is witnessing intensified military preparations." Al-Hadidah, which is also a major port, is situated to the northeast of Aden and close to al-Hanish al-Kubra island, which was invaded by Eritrean forces in mid-December 1995.

The sources said that "the preparations, which involve the Air Force and the Navy, were undertaken in anticipation of any situation that might arise should Eritrea reject the French mediation, agreed by Yemen following the failure of the Ethiopian and Egyptian mediations." They added that "Yemen will not resort to force to restore its sovereignty over the islands unless it is forced to do so, and after all mediations have failed, in order to avoid any tension in the region." [passage omitted]

Iraq: 'Optimism' Over 'Imminent Agreement' in Oil-for-Food Talks

MM1104131796 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 11 Apr 96 pp 1,6

[Report by Raghidah Dirgham in New York: "Optimism in the United Nations About 'Imminent' Agreement With Iraq"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Western informed sources have expressed their optimism that an agreement may be reached within the next two days on the memorandum of understanding about Resolution 986, empowering Baghdad to sell $1 billion's worth of oil every 90 days for six months, in order to satisfy Iraq's urgent humanitarian needs.

A Western diplomat described as an "important" development the Iraqi Government's agreement to dissociate the authority to purchase food from the authority to purchase medical supplies for the three northern governorates. He said: "An agreement can reasonably be expected either today or tomorrow."

The third round of negotiations between the UN General Secretariat and the Iraqi Government started last Monday in New York. The negotiators have been trying to solve the remaining main problem in the memorandum of understanding, which concerns the authority to purchase and distribute food, medicine, and medical supplies amounting to some $130-150 million allocated to the three northern governorates by Resolution 986, and to distribute them in the Kurdish areas in the north,.

There was general optimism yesterday that an agreement would be reached which would eliminate all the remaining brackets in the draft memorandum known as "the non-document," which will be called: Memorandum of Understanding on the Implementation of Resolution 986. Ambassador al-Anbari, the Iraqi delegation chief, told AL-HAYAH during the second round that Baghdad will not oppose the memorandum's title and will agree to the mention of Resolution 986 (which it had previously rejected) after an agreement is reached on all the other details in the memorandum of understanding.

Although some General Secretariat circles expressed optimism on reaching an agreement with the Iraqi side, they said, however, that the next step, which is to secure the Security Council members' agreement on the "non-document," is extremely important, and perhaps the most difficult thing.

The insistence of the General Secretariat's negotiators on reaching a genuine and undeviating implementation of Resolution 986 led to the belief, even among the influential Security Council Western member states, that the United States and Britain would approve the agreement, thus changing the "non-document" into an official "document" under the title "Memorandum of Understanding on the Implementation of Resolution 986."

With regard to rumors in UN circles that the United States and Britain were trying to hamper the agreement, a Western diplomat, who asked to remain anonymous, told AL-HAYAH: "This is not true," adding: "The United States and Britain have followed very closely the negotiations between the General Secretariat and the Iraqi Government to ensure that neither side attempts to surprise us with something that would be unacceptable to us." The Western source stressed that the two states were behind Resolution 986 and that "we want Resolution 986 to be implemented." He said that the General Secretariat's agreement to authorize the Iraqi Government to purchase food for the Kurds "is up to the General Secretariat" provided this is done on a case by case basis. He added that Iraq's agreement that the authority to purchase medical supplies be entrusted to the UN humanitarian program in northern Iraq "means that the two sides are about to reach an agreement," and that reaching "an acceptable formula seems imminent." He added: "An agreement can be reasonably expected today or tomorrow."

It is unlikely that the signing will take place today, Thursday, if an agreement is reached and if it does not stumble during the Wednesday sessions, in view of the fact that, because of prior engagements in Washington, Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali will be away from New York just for one day.

If an agreement is reached, Iraq will return to the oil market, albeit with a limited quantity. It will also create a precedent in its relations with the General Secretariat, and have the opportunity of turning a new page with the Security Council. The conditions for a total lifting of the oil embargo as stated in Article 22 of Resolution 687 link the lifting of the embargo to Iraq's implementing all the requirements of the Special Commission in charge of removing the banned Iraqi weapons, headed by Ambassador Rolf Ekeus.

Today, Thursday, the Special Commission is expected to publish its half-yearly report on Iraq's implementation of the commission's requirements. Ekeus met yesterday with Chilean Ambassador Juan Somavia, the Security Council's president for the current month, to agree on a date for examining the report. Ekeus said that he wants to present the report today so that the Security Council can decide on when to start discussing it, which is likely to take place early next week. In a statement to AL-HAYAH, Ekeus denied reports that the report would be negative against Iraq, saying: "This is not true. The report will not be negative, but will undoubtedly contain some criticism (of Iraq)." He described the report as "positive with regard to recognizing the progress achieved, and negative with regard to disclosing the facts" about what happened during the last six months between Iraq, the inspection teams, and the Special Commission. Ekeus said that the report will be "perfectly balanced" and that it will "definitely" set the record straight about what the Iraqi side has done to implement the commission's requirements. Asked whether the report will address Article 22 of Resolution 687, Ekeus said: "You will see" when you study the report, refusing to elaborate further. He said that the commission is dealing with Resolution 687 which contains Article 22, but that it is also dealing with Resolution 987 "because the financing of our operations depends on it."

It should be mentioned that the United Nations will reserve 30 percent of the oil revenues for the fund set up to compensate the sides harmed by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, and a further amount to cover UN expenses in Iraq, including the expenses of the Special Commission in charge of removing Iraq's banned weapons.

Iraq: Airspace 'Violation' Protested to UN Chief

JN1104185996 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0740 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, 11 Apr (INA)—Iraq once again protested to the United Nations the continued violation of its airspace by U.S., British, and French aircraft for purposes of surveillance and provocation.

A letter Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf addressed to the UN secretary general said that the aforementioned aircraft violated Iraq's airspace during the period 16-31 March by carrying out 864 hostile sorties over several areas in northern and southern Iraq.

In his letter, the Iraqi foreign minister called on the UN secretary general to intercede with these states to stop these acts which threaten Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity, terrify civilians, and inflict material losses on private and public property. He said these acts are flagrant violations of the UN Charter and the provisions of international law.

The foreign minister stressed that Iraq maintains its right to legal compensations for the harm inflicted on Iraq and its people. The foreign minister requested this letter be distributed as a UN Security Council document.

Iraq: 'Diplomatic Sources' Expect Ties With Turkey To Improve

NC1204100996 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0845 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 12 Apr (MENA) — Diplomatic sources in Baghdad expect Iraqi-Turkish relations to improve in the near future especially if the current talks in New York between Iraq and the United Nations lead to a partial lifting of the embargo imposed on Iraq.

Today, these sources told MENA's correspondent in Baghdad that Iraq seeks to improve its ties with Turkey to open a new window to the outside world to make up for "the recent deterioration of its ties with Jordan".

The sources clarified that in the event Iraq reaches an agreement with the United nations, the international line "linking Iraq and Turkey" will definitely compensate for the reduction of trade imports coming to Iraq via Jordan.

Since the embargo was imposed on Iraq in 1990, Jordan has been regarded as Iraq's only means of communication with the outside world, whether through travelers or goods coming to Iraq via Jordan's Port of al-'Aqabah.

Iraq: AL-THAWRAH Analyzes U.S. 'Threats' to Libya

JN1104150996 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0718 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 11 Apr (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH stresses that the U.S. threats to Libya and some other Arab countries do not only constitute flagrant double standards, but also a U.S. policy hostile to the Arab nation, and a clear indifference to its interests, rights, and pan-Arab security.

In an article today, AL-THAWRAH, organ of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says: The new U.S. threats to carry out a new aggression against the Libyan Jamahiriyah, which is being peddled by U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry through his miserable allegations and false claims on the existence of a Libyan chemical weapons program, are no more than a cheap and exposed blackmail aimed at forcing Libya to change its policy toward the true nature of the fabricated crises which are peddled and adopted by Washington.

The paper wonders about the reasons behind silence over the Zionist nuclear arsenal, and the failure to inspect it, talk about it, or force it [Israel] to sign the treaty banning weapons of mass destruction despite this arsenal's clear and possible dangers to the region and the world.

The paper says: The issue about which the United States is creating clamor goes far beyond accusing Libya of possessing a program to develop chemical weapons, for Egypt refuted reports on this program following its foreign minister's visit to Tripoli. This program exists only in the imagination of the Americans. In light of this, we can understand the true motives behind this rapid campaign, especially since the insolent threats are made at a time when blockade is imposed on many Arab states—a blockade whose objective is to continue to exhaust the region in order to set the suspicious criminal plans at the expense of the Arab future and present.

The paper notes: These U.S. allegations are not the first and will not be the last in the series of the hostile U.S. plans. These threats were preceded by the criminal aggression against Iraq. A disinformation campaign was also launched against Iraq, Sudan, and other Arab countries with the objective of weakening them and obstructing their march and their peoples' legitimate aspirations for security, peace, and progress.

Concluding, the paper says: Escalating tension, poisoning the atmosphere, fabricating problems, and peddling false claims have always characterized the U.S. policy against the Arabs to force them to accept the fait accompli and Washington's policies and programs as if they constitute an unescapable fate and the only option which has no other alternatives. This is the peak of terrorism against peoples and their options.

Iraq: Husayn Kamil's Death Described

96LH0146A London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 1 Mar 96 p 16

[Unattributed article]

[FBIS Translated Text] Until the moment in which Husayn Kamil and his brother Saddam crossed the Jordanian border at the Tarbil checkpoint on their way back to Baghdad, he was telling his escorts "there is nothing to worry about; I am the father of his grandchildren and the husband of his daughter."

Shortly after they stepped on Iraqi soil and were welcomed with embraces and kisses by 'Udayy Saddam Husayn, the two brothers were sure they were finished.

'Udayy and his escorts separated Husayn and Saddam from their wives, Raghad and Rana, the two daughters of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and the sisters of 'Udayy. The two sisters rode in a car with 'Udayy, while Husayn Kamil, his brother Saddam, and two escorts rode in another car, beginning the long journey through the desert to Baghdad (eight hours).

Shortly after they arrived in Baghdad, at the house of the al-Majid family in the al-Sayyidiyah Quarter, Baghdad radio announced that Raghad and Rana hade divorced their husbands because they refused to "associate with traitors."

Husayn and Saddam then realized that they have fallen in a trap prepared in the past two months by their wives and persons whom they thought were their friends in Amman. Joined by some of their cousins, the two brothers armed themselves and waited to see what would happen.

At noon, Friday, a motorcade of black Mercedes cars and pickup trucks arrived with armed men, led by 'Udayy Saddam Husayn. Using a loudspeaker, 'Udayy asked Husayn and Saddam al-Majid to come out for questioning. When they refused, shooting began immediately. According to some stories, hand grenades were thrown at the house. The exchange of fire continued for more than 30 minutes, ending with the death of Husayn Kamil and his brother Saddam, their brother Hakim, their father Kamil, and some of their cousins. Some of 'Udayy's men were also killed in the exchange of fire. Major Jamal Mustafa, son-in-law of Saddam Husayn and husband of his youngest daughter Hala, was wounded.

Baghdad reported a different story. Its radio reported that the al-Majid cousins were angry with the "traitors." Twenty of them stormed the family's house and killed the two brothers because of what they did. The radio report said that some of the attackers, including Tha'ir 'Abd-al-Qadir Sulayman al-Majid and Ahmad 'Abd-al-Ghafur Sulayman al-Majid, were also killed.

However, Jordanian sources told AL-HAWADITH that Tha'ir and Ahmad were inside the family house and took part in the attempt to repulse the attack by 'Udayy's men. They were given a formal funeral to show that Husayn Kamil and his brother Saddam were killed in a family revenge attack.

Before their return to Baghdad, Husayn Kamil and his brother Saddam were the target of an intensive brainwashing operation to prompt them to return to Baghdad. An Iraqi businessman living in Jordan who Husayn Kamil thought was a trusted friend participated in this operation. This friend, however, was in constant touch with the regime in Baghdad and carried out its instructions. Husayn's wife, Raghad, was also in constant touch with her brother 'Udayy, talking to him regularly from the Iraqi Embassy in Amman.

The purpose of all the contacts was to convince Husayn Kamil that President Saddam Husayn was ready to pardon him and his brother Saddam, and that the whole matter was a family problem that can be resolved in a family way, as they were married to his two daughters.

To further conceal what would happen, Husayn Kamil was told that the maximum that could happen to him would be to deprive him of any official post, ban him from traveling abroad, or keep him under house arrest for a short period "until people forget the episode."

The coolness with which he was received by Amman and some Western capitals (including Washington and London), which refused to grant him an entry visa, helped Husayn Kamil make up his mind to return home. Jordan told him that if he left Amman, he could not take his wife and children with him because "Jordan was responsible for their safety."

As the weeks went by, Husayn Kamil and his brother found that they were isolated in Amman. Some of the meetings with U.S. and European intelligence officials produced nothing. These meetings, in fact, stopped after these officials discovered that the information Husayn Kamil was giving them was not new and could not be useful to them. Furthermore, the Iraqi opposition abroad and the Arab states he tried to contact from Amman refused to deal with him.

Estimates vary about the effects of the operation in which Husayn Kamil and his brother Saddam, their father Kamil, their brother Hakim, and some of their cousins were killed. Some observers think that the operation has tightened the grip of Saddam Husayn's family on the regime, increased 'Udayy's power after the death of his "competitor" Husayn Kamil, and ended the conflicts within the al-Majid clan.

Other observers think that the family feud will intensify and acts of revenge will not stop. The al-Majid clan hails from the al-Bayjat Tribe. The assassination of a member of the tribe without trial or legal reasons is considered murder and demands vengeance. If the assassination was for revenge, then this demanded double revenge.

Some observers are watching to see what the Iraqi Army will do following last Friday's "massacre." The operation redirected the spotlights on the domestic situation in Iraq, the regime, and the Iraqi people's economic situation. These are causing much concern in the Iraqi armed forces, particularly among junior officers and soldiers.

The Iraqi press currently publishes photographs of Saddam's family without Husayn and Saddam Kamil. The two had always stood on one side of the family photograph that was published on every occasion.

Iraq: Husayn Kamil-Iraqi Opposition Contacts Discussed

96LH0167A London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 3 Mar 96 pp 28-29

[Telephone/fax interview with Iraqi opposition leader Mish'an al-Juburi, in Damascus, by an unidentified correspondent in Amman; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [AL-MAJALLAH] Iraqi opposition leader Mish'an al-Juburi, whose brother and cousin were executed by President Saddam Husayn's regime, was one of the first to cooperate with Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil when he was in Amman. He associated with him for a while before leaving Jordan. Al-Juburi also knew Colonel Saddam Kamil when they were in Baghdad. AL-MAJALLAH interviewed al-Juburi by telephone and fax in his temporary headquarters in Damascus about his relationship with Husayn Kamil and about Husayn Kamil's mood before he left Amman. Al-Juburi said:

[Al-Juburi] I was the first to contact Husayn Kamil after he left Baghdad. I was in Turkey. Colonel Saddam answered the telephone. This was a surprise to me, because my brother-in-law [as published] was executed two months before this telephone conversation, and we knew that Husayn Kamil had a part in his execution. I thought about it for long. I came to the conclusion that Husayn Kamil and his brother could serve as a bridge for a peaceful change in Iraq, and that the person who one day was responsible for the security, the army, the economy, and the industry can accomplish such a change. I informed Husayn Kamil that I will be ready to cooperate with him, forget the past, and pledge to carry out a democratic program that would respect human rights and establish a state of law. Before we met, he asked me to undertake several missions for him. I carried messages from him to England, the United States, and the Arab states. Then I went to Amman where we had our first meeting.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Was he different from when you knew him in Baghdad?

[Al-Juburi] My acquaintance with Husayn Kamil in Baghdad was superficial. His brother Colonel Saddam was my friend. Husayn Kamil then was friendly and kind. He had organized ideas, but he was not democratic in his daily behavior. He ridiculed democracy. He often called me "o democrat" to mock my ideas. Husayn Kamil changed later and became nervous, violent, and aggressive after he concluded that he did not get the reception he expected. He used to tell me: If I were in the government and sent an envoy to the United States or some Arab states interested in Iraqi affairs and told them that I was ready to work with them, they would have offered me everything I wanted. Why didn't they do that now? His preoccupation with power made him fail in presenting himself. He could not convince others of a single story about the circumstances of his defection. Husayn Kamil thought that providence made him defect to the opposition so that the authority would remain in the hands of the al-Majid family.

Husayn Kamil was confined to the al-Hashimiyah Palace. He suffered from depression because he had very few meetings. When I was in Amman, he wanted me to stay with him more than 16 hours a day in my house or his house.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Do you think that his wife and her sister Rana accepted his rebellion against President Saddam Husayn?

[Al-Juburi] After spending time together I realized that they did not support his action. They left Baghdad thinking that they were going to Bulgaria on vacation. They discussed such a visit before. They knew also that 'Udayy had threatened to kill Husayn Kamil and thought that the trip would allow their father to settle the dispute. They were surprised by the news conference. Husayn Kamil told me once that the president's daughters will never agree to work against their father. Therefore, he always avoided talking negatively about Saddam Husayn. He always called him either my father-in-law or Mr. President. We had many differences about this description. I remember that once he asked the popular poet 'Abbas Shishan to read a poem glorifying Saddam Husayn in my house. I strongly objected. We had a big argument, because 'Abbas insisted on reading it. I prevented 'Abbas from entering my house for a long time because of this incident. Husayn Kamil's younger brother and his cousin guarded the women for fear they would run away or that they would contact anyone that would enable them to return home. He would not allow them to meet with other women except in the presence of his brother Husayn Kamil for fear that they would leak information about their real stand. I also learned that Husayn Kamil recorded most of the conversations with family visitors.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Were Husayn Kamil's actions different during his last days in Amman?

[Al-Juburi] Husayn was tense and aggressive. He did not respect anyone. He attacked many people in my presence. He verbally abused an opposition leader over the telephone without any reason. After saying pleasant things, he became abusive and said things that no dignified person would say. He attacked another person, who asked me not to mention his name. He was very close to Husayn Kamil and came twice from London to see him. Still, Husayn Kamil attacked him because he called him Abu-'Ali and not your excellency the general. I remember that Salah 'Umar al-'Ali, Husayn Kamil, and I were preparing a statement. Salah wrote "Lt. Gen. Husayn" and not "Staff Lt. Gen. Husayn." He got nervous and insisted that we mention his full title. He was aggressive even with his brothers and children. He refused to send his children to school. When I asked him for the reason, he said our destiny in life is to carry rifles and fight and not to study. When we were together, he used to tell us about his heroic deeds in suppressing the uprising and his battles with Iran. He used to talk about these things daily.

[AL-MAJALLAH] How did Husayn Kamil get the idea to go back and what were the assurances he received?

[Al-Juburi] I was the closest to him after his brothers in Amman. All his contacts with the opposition took place through me. However, I realized that Husayn Kamil is not the person who can represent the ambitions of the Iraqis. We wanted him as a bridge for a peaceful change, and he wanted us as a bridge to achieve power. I realized that continuing the resistance against Saddam Husayn would be easier than resisting Husayn Kamil if he assumed power with our help.

As far as I know, Husayn Kamil suffered a breakdown, because he lost touch with the people around him and lost Jordanian support. A fierce argument took place on the first day of the 'Id between him and Jordanian officials who called on him to complain about his statements against Jordan. He went to the Iraqi ambassador in Amman and expressed readiness to return if the Revolution Command Council [RCC] would issue a pardon. He thought that this would embarrass Saddam Husayn and prevent him from liquidating him. Saddam Husayn got the signal, which he waited for, and announced the pardon. Husayn Kamil left Amman for the Iraqi border, where the families split. The two sisters went with 'Udayy, who questioned them on the way between the border and Baghdad. They told him exactly what happened in Amman. 'Udayy told his father, who issued the order for their divorce and the liquidation of Husayn Kamil and his brothers, adding to them all those who went to greet them, because he regarded that as a challenge to him. 'Udayy went to the house with a force to attack, burn, and kill everyone in it: children, women, and old people.

I think that Husayn Kamil realized that he was going to die, because he and his brother Col. Saddam told me more than once that Saddam Husayn does not respect any promise or agreement. Husayn Kamil assumed that the pardon issued by the RCC and the Ba'th Party Regional Command and its publication by the media would serve as a limited guarantee. He thought that such a declaration could place the regime in an embarrassing position.

I would like to point out that the murder scenario mentioned by the regime was false. We have confirmed information that Tha'ir 'Abd-al-Qadir Sulayman al-Majid and Ahmad 'Abd-al-Ghafur Sulayman al-Majid were also killed as they were sitting with Husayn Kamil in the house, believing the president's pardon and trying to give Husayn Kamil some security. I know that Husayn Kamil maintained good relations with Tha'ir. Husayn Kamil told me that he relies on Tha'ir to stick besides him if he sought an armed change in Baghdad. I also know, by virtue of my personal relations with 'Udayy and Tha'ir, that a major conflict occurred between Tha'ir and 'Udayy and Saddam Husayn because of Tha'ir's marriage to the youngest daughter of former President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr. Differences were also brewing between Tha'ir and 'Udayy over business interests, causing them to clash more than once. Once Tha'ir appeared on television with his head shaven as if he were a criminal. A presidential statement accused him of attacking the people and exploiting the president's name. He remained in prison until after the second Gulf War defeat, when he was released under a general amnesty. He never forgot this incident. Ahmad 'Abd-al-Ghafur, a cousin of Husayn Kamil, was in the house by virtue of his very special relationship with Col. Saddam. Saddam realized later that the murder of Tha'ir and Ahmad could involve the family in a blood bath, especially as Tha'ir has brothers who are known to be vicious and an uncle, Staff Colonel Shabib, who was a close escort of Saddam. The murder of Kamil Hasan, the father of Lt. Gen. Husayn Kamil, who is considered the patriarch of the al-Majid family, will lead to a confrontation between his brothers 'Ali, a member of the RCC; 'Abd, a former deputy chief of intelligence; and Hashim, the director general of the presidential office, on the one hand, and Saddam Husayn, on the other. This is why 'Udayy asked his father to announce the martyrdom of Tha'ir and Ahmad in the attack and blamed them for the murder of the family of Kamil Hasan al-Majid. The family apparently knew the real story. That is why the father of Tha'ir and his brothers and the family of Ahmad did not participate in their funerals. That is also why the brothers of Kamil were not seen in the funeral, except Ali, who attended wearing his official uniform. People who attended the funeral say he did not greet Udayy at the end of the funeral ceremony. According to our information, an armed confrontation took place in Tikrit between the al-Majid family and Udayy's guard. This means that blood will flow and that new confrontations will take place with members of this family.

[AL-MAJALLAH] How do you see the future in Iraq?

[Al-Juburi] It is going to be difficult for the families of the victims to disregard this massacre. I expect bloody clashes will take place. I agree with King Husayn's statement, after Husayn Kamil was killed, that a change in Iraq is inevitable and imminent.

Israeli Leaders' News Conference on Lebanon Operations

TA1104172596 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1634 GMT 11 Apr 96

[News conference by Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq, Chief of Intelligence Moshe Ya'alon, and Air Force Chief Herzl Budinger with Israelil correspondents at Bet Sokolov in Tel Aviv — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Peres] The day of the Sharm al-Shaykh conference, Hizballah opened fire along the entire security zone in south Lebanon, without any provocation, logic, or necessity. During this month there were about 10 incidents of provocation and gunfire, a suicide attack aimed at IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and SLA [South Lebanese Army] troops, and totally outside any logic, an attack with mortar fire on an IDF position.

We proceeded with the utmost discretion and cool on this matter. This time we tried to reach a political dialogue before a military response. Indeed, initially it looked as though such a dialogue was under way, but when it fell through, we saw no sense in resuming it.

The State of Israel is very serious in its efforts to achieve peace, and we are prepared to undertake the necessary risks and adopt the right steps to bring about a comprehensive peace in the Middle East. However, these efforts will in no way come at the expense of the security of Israel's citizens. Just as we are serious about peace, so we are serious about security. We will spare no effort to ensure personal and collective security for the entire country, all its regions, and all its citizens.

Hizballah entertained the fantasy that it had an edge over us in terms of weapons, manpower, or initiative. If Hizballah has Katyushas, we have more sophisticated missiles; if it has pick-up vans, we have better vehicles; and if it is necessary to create an advantage, we will create the necessary advantage.

Indeed, this time we used those better tools in a bid to convey a very simple message: There will be peace in Lebanon if there is peace in Qiryat Shemona and the entire State of Israel. No immunity will be given to any Hizballah position or outpost where plans are made or from which strikes are aimed at the State of Israel.

The current operation does not resemble previous operations, and this was done intentionally. It is a very complex, almost surgical operation. I do not have enough words to praise the IDF for an accurate and efficient execution, to convey my full appreciation to the chief of staff who oversaw this operation with coolheaded precision, to the Air Force chief who once again proved the Air Force's ability to tackle diverse situations and return home without sustaining any casualties, and to all IDF soldiers on land, air, and sea who at this very minute remain on alert to carry out their duties.

I would also like to express my appreciation to the residents of the Galilee and Qiryat Shemona. As for the operational details, I suggest that the chief of staff brief you on them.

[Shahaq] Today, we mainly operated our Air Force, and we did so in three sectors: the Lebanese al-Biqa', where the Air Force attacked early this morning. Later this morning, it attacked targets in south Lebanon in the area facing our security zone. Just before noon, there was a raid in Beirut. All the targets hit were Hizballah targets, whether they were sites or persons who were on the roads in south Lebanon.

The aim of what was done in Lebanon today is to make Hizballah aware that its recent activities will receive a response wherever it may be found, with methods and means as we see fit. For quite some time, Hizballah has been hiding behind Lebanese citizens, inside south Lebanon villages, in Beirut, and in other places. Its bases, communication rooms, and activists' barracks are there, expecting its presence among the civilian population to shelter it from IDF attacks.

Hizballah has been firing at the security zone north of the State of Israel from inside built-up areas, next to UN positions, and near civilian houses and schools, while at the same time it has been urging that civilians not be harmed. There is a situation in Lebanon, which is not new, in which certain elements ignore the fact that there is a central government in Lebanon, and the government ignores Hizballah activities in the south of course, but also in the al-Biqa' and in Beirut. Their activities are launched from areas in close proximity to Lebanese Army bases and other government offices. Naturally, we have no business harming the Lebanese Army. We said as much this morning in any way we could. We were very clear about it and, if the Lebanese Army gets the message, we will not have to repeat what we did this morning when their vehicle fired antiaircraft rockets at our helicopters and was hit as a result.

We will choose the Hizballah targets, even if they are located inside civilian population areas while naturally seeking to avoid harming civilians. We will have to create a separation and distance the civilians from the target areas. We made this clear to the residents of south Lebanon today as well. I hope they are aware of the price they might pay if they continue sheltering Hizballah. It appears that over the past several months, Hizballah has been interpreting the understandings of July 1993 in a way that is very remote from things the understandings aimed at. Hizballah calls it the understandings of July 1993, but acts in a way that has nothing to do with them.

We consider the Government of Lebanon responsible for everything that takes place under its sovereignty, and we believe that it can do much more than it has done to this day. The IDF will remain committed to the well-being of the security zone and northern Israel. We also help our civilian population. The Northern Command is currently deployed in the region. Today was one of the quietest days in south Lebanon. Not even a single shot was fired, unlike very often in the past. The Northern Command is ready for any development while helping the residents as much it can, with our means and in cooperation with civilian bodies.

Our attacks today were very surgical, and the Air Force commander will explain later what it did. Following me will be the chief of intelligence who will describe the situation and will give details about Hizballah connections and deeds. Gen. Ya'alon, please.

[Ya'alon] All the targets chosen for attack today were Hizballah terrorist targets. There were no civilians in any of them although, by nature, Hizballah operates from inside the civilian population. We tried to pick such targets that if attacked, civilians would not be under any risk. The first target, in al-Biqa', which we attacked around 0130 GMT [2230 GMT on 10 April], is located near the city of Ba'labakk. It is called al- Kayyal. Syrian forces are located 700 meters away, Lebanese troops were in the area, and Iranian Revolutionary Guards are in the city of Ba'labakk. It was a Hizballah logistics base which also served as an ammunition and equipment depot. There are containers, bunkers, and antiaircraft positions there. We know that the target was attacked and hit as planned. Hizballah immediately sealed off the area, said that it is a dump site, and did not let reporters in, as part of their policy to cover up and hide damage and casualties it sustained in the attack.

The second target is in south Lebanon, on the western slopes of Jabal Safi'. It is called 'Ayn Bu Siwar. There are two buildings there, both inhabited exclusively by Hizballah personnel. The buildings and the village serve as a rear base for Hizballah activity in the Jabal Safi' area. The activists emerge from there to attack our or SLA posts in Jabal Sujud and Jabal Ghazlan with mortars, in ambushes, and with explosive charges. Both buildings were wiped out. Here again, Hizballah immediately sealed off the area and, as they always do, reported that a mule was killed — which is part of their psychological warfare and part of their attempt to avoid showing their casualties.

The third target, or rather fourth, which was attacked at around 0730 GMT, is situated in the heart of Beirut, in the neighborhood of Bi'r al-'Abid in the southern part of town where the Shiite quarters are. In the heart of the neighborhood, there is a restricted compound, open only to Hizballah activists. It is surrounded by barbed wire fences and roadblocks which do not allow innocent citizens in. Anyone in the compound is either in Hizballah offices or in apartments where families live. It is a ten-story building, and we hit an office situated on the first floor, in the northern wing of the building. We fired rockets, as the Air Force commander will explain later, precisely at the office, attempting to hit it and nothing else. This office is the Hizballah operations center where operations are planned, and orders are issued for attacks in south Lebanon.

During the day, we also attacked several cars of Hizballah activists in the area of the village of al-Zaghariyah [as heard], north of and near the al-Litani River, and in the village of al- Jiyah, or al-Nabi Yunus, north of Sidon. As far as we knew, the vehicles served Hizballah activists and, therefore, were hit.

During the Air Force helicopter gunship attacks, a Lebanese Army vehicle opened antiaircraft fire on them. One of the helicopters returned fire and destroyed the vehicle. The Lebanese Army reported that one soldier was killed and two were wounded. Thank you.

[Budinger] I would like to focus only on the Air Force raid. First of all, I will concentrate on the raid on the three main targets. One of them was al-Kayyal in the al-Biqa' Valley, where there was a Hizballah arms depot. What is special about this target is its proximity to the Syrian border and its location in an area protected by Syrian missiles and next to Syrian troops deployed in al-Biqa'.

The second target was in the village of 'Ayn Bu Siwar in south Lebanon, slightly north of the security zone, opposite al-Nabatiyah. Here was a Hizballah base consisting of two large high-rise buildings. The third target was inside Beirut and was the most complex one, mainly because of its location in a densely populated area. I will elaborate on this particular target, because I think it merits more explanations.

Let me start with the first target. This was a military outpost containing containers and bunkers of ammunition and other weapons, apparently belonging to Hizballah. We chose two representative targets, and we hit them at nighttime, at 0430 [0130 GMT]. We scored excellent hits. Here you see two photographs taken by the laser cameras aboard the planes, with the crosses representing the hit on the target. The two buildings here look different from the photograph shown earlier by the chief of intelligence. Here we see a high building close to others, and the goal here was to destroy the buildings.

Incidentally, we estimated that most of the targets may have been empty due to Hizballah's high state of alert and its preparedness for an attack. That is why great emphasis was put on precise hits and causing maximal damage everywhere possible. We used jet fighters and heavy bombs, and the damage sustained was as we had expected as a result of very accurate hits.

The Beirut area is different. I chose to show you this picture because it shows the target from the direction of the sea inland, as the pilot sees it from a distance of 5 km away. You see that the houses are very close to each other and the difficulty this entails. On this photograph the building is highlighted, but in its natural state it is very hard to spot it, and it is certainly hard to find the exact floor. I must point out that despite weather conditions and the haze, this target was hit accurately. Each of the three windows set as a target were accurately hit.

I suggest that we proceed to watch a film that will present each of the targets in sequence. The first will be al-Kayyal, the second will be the two buildings in 'Ayn Bu Siwar, and the last will be the hit on the right floor. You now see the hit on the southern container in al-Kayyal; the target was destroyed. Now you see the northern container; the bomb hit the bull's eye, and the target was destroyed. I would like to remind you that this took place at nighttime.

Now we are looking at the hit early this morning, at 0700. The cross is on the first building, and you will soon see it destroyed; the building was razed. Now you see the same happening to the second building. Now you see the hit on the building in Beirut, as seen from the camera on the plane's sight.

I would like to emphasize the excellent hits. We did not miss any of the targets, and I believe the damage to installations in the vicinity was nil, if at all. I think this is a very big achievement which proves the pilots' professionalism, efforts, and precise execution according to plans. Thank you very much.

[TV Channel 1's political correspondent Nisim Mish'al] Mr. Prime Minister, do you believe Hizballah has learned its lesson after the Air Force strikes and will stop firing Katyushas at the north? If not, should we expect more IDF reprisals?

[Peres] I hope it has learned its lesson, although there is no way I can promise you that it will stop acting against us. If it does, we will respond as necessary.

[TV Channel 2's political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen] Mr. Prime Minister, have any measures been taken to prevent this operation from dragging on or dragging us into a confrontation with the Syrians and maybe also with the Lebanese Government?

With your permission, I would also like to address a question to Intelligence Chief Ya'alon: Do you have any indications that the Iranian Government has taken practical steps to hurt the Labor government or prevent it from staying in power in Israel?

[Peres] We have no intention of being dragged into anything. We weigh every action according to the needs, and nobody will make us change our decisions.

[Ya'alon] Since last November we have identified an effort of all the terror organizations led by Iran to carry out as many terror attacks in Israel as possible — be they inside Israel by Palestinian organizations such as Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], Islamic Jihad, or other rejectionist groups such as the Popular Front — and to push Hizballah in Lebanon to escalate the situation in the north.

In addition to that, we discerned an Iranian effort to build an infrastructure to carry out terror attacks abroad. The Iranians plan to build this infrastructure to enable them to carry out attacks against Israeli or Jewish targets in various places around the world. This Iranian effort consists of extending financial aid to all the organizations, including Hamas, which currently receives money from Iran, and Islamic Jihad and Hizballah, which have always received money from Iran.

We see this effort in the regular supply of weapons to Hizballah through Damascus airport, which are then transported by trucks into Lebanon, as well as in the attempt to send weapons to Palestinian organizations, including those inside Israel. This is expressed in guidelines and instruction, including training courses and practical instruction in Iran of activists of all the organizations.

Only recently we publicized in the media the attempt to return to the area of a Palestinian who left the Gaza Strip, went to Iran through Turkey with diplomatic help, with a falsified diplomatic Iranian passport. He was trained in Iran, later returned to Turkey and tried to enter back into the area through our border crossings. He is only one of those whom we have exposed; there are many others.

We definitely identity this as an effort aimed at hitting as many Israelis and targets as possible to inflict pain on us. We also know that this is part of an Iranian policy aimed at hurting the peace process. The Iranians, be it in their relations with Syria or in their joint operation of Hizballah in Lebanon, regard the peace process as contradicting their basic interests. Furthermore, they do not approve of what is happening on the Israeli-Palestinian track. That is why they are definitely pushing for more attacks, one of their assumptions being that a change of rule in Israel will also harm the peace process.

[Qol Yisra'el's Menahem Horowitz] Mr. Prime Minister, have any political contacts been launched on the Jerusalem-Washington-Damascus axis aimed at translating the fire into some kind of new political arrangement? What must happen in the field in order for you to tell the IDF: Hold your fire, this operation has attained its objectives?

[Peres] Political contacts preceded the military operation. Seeing that Hizballah refused to respond to them I see no sense in resuming them. We are making it plain to the Lebanese Government, Hizballah, and the Syrian Government what the tolerable parameters are, and these do not include Qiryat Shemona. We will insist on this point. We will certainly not give immunity to a Beirut where a Hizballah headquarters exists exterritorially. We remain receptive to proposals and political contacts. We prefer political talk to exchanges of fire, if this can help.

[IDF Radio's political correspondent Udi Segal] Mr. Prime Minister, did you approach the United States after the raids, and did you receive the White House's prior approval for the operation? Did the Americans know about it?

I would like to address another question to the chief of staff: How can you go on fighting Hizballah which, as you said, operates from within the civilian population? Are you planning a prolonged operation until the objective is achieved, and what exactly is that objective?

[Peres] I did not ask for, and therefore I did not receive any approval from the United States. This was an Israeli decision par excellence. We told the United States that we would prefer a dialogue, but we also warned that if the dialogue is violated we would adopt other measures. We did not conduct any negotiation-like contacts with the United States. Of course we informed the U.S. Administration through its ambassador in Israel, just as we informed other governments through their military attaches.

[Shahaq] I will repeat what I said before: As far as we are concerned, we will attack any place where we find Hizballah. Hizballah and those it uses as a shield ought to know that the civilian population will not provide any cover to Hizballah to carry out terror attacks against Israel or the security zone. Therefore, Hizballah and the villagers will have to make up their minds. The latter will have to decide whether to hide Hizballah in its midst and run the risks, or reach some different arrangement with Hizballah whereby it can operate from areas that do not endanger the civilian population.

[Segal] Mr. Chief of Staff, what is the assessment of the IDF, or better yet that of the Intelligence Branch, as to how Hizballah will respond to the current operation? Does the Intelligence Branch assess that Hizballah will take a break and try to surprise us at a later stage, or will it immediately escalate the situation?

[Ya'alon] We estimate that Hizballah will respond and will probably try to do so in such a way as to inflict pain on us. Consequently, we are taking all eventualities into account: Katyusha attacks, more shelling on IDF and SLA soldiers in the security zone, roadside bombs, and attempts to repeat their recent abortive attacks with a car bomb, a booby-trapped hang glider, or a simple terrorist carrying a bomb on his body and blowing himself up.

We are taking all these possibilities into consideration, and we will try to be alert to them and prevent them.

[MA'ARIV's Avihay Becker] My question is addressed to the Air Force chief: Did the weather affect your plans to strike or not to strike additional targets today?

[Budinger] I stressed in my explanation of the raid that we had showed an ability to strike at nighttime, during the day, and later in the day, in hazy and cloudy weather conditions. So far weather conditions in the area have had no effect on our capability. At this very moment our planes are flying over the area, mainly to clamp what you might call an aerial curfew on any suspicious movement in the areas from which terrorists fired at the northern Galilee in the past. Any suspicious vehicle or movement is attacked, and this includes the mistaken strike earlier this morning on a Lebanese Army vehicle which opened fire at our planes.

I can tell you that after conducting such patrols for half a day and raiding several vehicles, the area is more or less quiet and nobody who does not need to is traveling there. The weather has had no effect on any future raids, at least not at this stage. [news conference continues in English and live coverage is discontinued]

Israel: 'Senior Sources'—Reprisal Options 'Remain Open'

TA1104144596 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Senior security sources have affirmed that the Israel Air Force [IAF] activity in Lebanon is meant to be a warning to the effect that if Katyusha rockets fall on Qiryat Shemona, Beirut will not remain outside the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] range of activity. According to these sources, Hizballah tried to dictate its methods to Israel so as to prevent it from using more advantageous methods, such as activating the IAF.

The security sources emphasized that Israel intends to exploit its advantages, and the method chosen today may be defined as pinpointed strikes on Hizballah targets. The IAF was used for this operation, instead of marching large numbers of infantry troops into Lebanese territory. The security sources noted that Israel intends to retain its freedom of action and discretion. All options for reprisal remain open, and Israel is taking into account the fact that the cycle of retaliation is not yet over.

The security sources clarified that there was no IDF order to evacuate residents from the northern settlements in general or from Qiryat Shemona in particular.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1300 GMT on 11 April adds: "A senior security source has affirmed that Israel is not prepared to put up with Hizballah's modus operandi in south Lebanon. Hizballah went over the limit, and that is why it was decided to act against it. According to the senior security source, Israel changed its previous modus operandi, whereby a military operation would be followed by an attempt to act through diplomatic channels. This time an attempt was first made to act through diplomatic channels, mainly by approaching Syria via the United States. However, this entreaty was followed by several incidents in south Lebanon, and that is why it was decided to respond.

["According to the senior security source, the operation was meant to clarify that if there is peace in Qiryat Shemona, there will be peace in Beirut. The security source added that the decision on the IAF operation was made on the eve of the holiday [9 April]. Hizballah misinterpreted Israel's discretion, he noted. Its fighters are not superior in any way, he said, and if we are talking about initiative, the IAF has proved that it has no problem carrying out precise strikes. The senior source's remarks were reported by our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe."]

Israel: Government Document Provides Rationale for Attacks

TA1104150596 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 11 Apr 96

[Report by political correspondent Udi Segal]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Lebanese Government is the sovereign power and is responsible for Hizballah activities in south Lebanon. This is why it is responsible for the hardships the residents there suffer as a result of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] activities. This is the message the Foreign Ministry is distributing in a detailed document disseminated today to all the Israeli representations abroad, following the assault in Lebanon. The document adds that Syria has significant control over Hizballah activities and that it can really curb it. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Peres has all the right justifications for the international community; he tried everything. He addressed the Syrians more than once, through the United States, and contacted Lebanon several times, through the French president, but nothing helped. Minister Yosi Beilin:

[Begin Beilin recording] Over the past several weeks, the Americans tried several times and had only partial success in stopping the activities against us. We, and they too, saw that this is not working on a long-term basis and, so it seems, it is impossible to change the nature of the military activities on the other side without our military activity. [end recording]

The Foreign Ministry document makes two additional points: It says that it is intolerable that the residents of the north be held hostage by Hizballah, and quotes Shaykh Nasrallah, the Hizballah secretary general, to prove that his organization not only aims to repel Israel from south Lebanon, but also wants to eliminate Israel and that, in fact, the organization is an extension of Iran. [passage omitted]

Israel: Deputy Defense Minister—Iranians in Lebanon Also 'Target'

TA1104154596 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1400 GMT 11 Apr 96

[Telephone interview with Israeli Deputy Defense Minister Ori Or by correspondent David Ze'ev on 11 April; place not given — recorded]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Ze'ev] The Israeli elections are now less than two months away. To what extent is this fact part of the considerations when decisionmaking is being taken?

[Or] No consideration is related to elections, none at all, believe me. All our considerations are operational; that is all, and you know that. We are not going to send a plane, pilot, or helicopter to do something for political reasons. Ours are pure military decisions, not political decisions; believe me.

[Ze'ev] Are contacts being held with the U.S. concerning Israeli operations in Lebanon?

[Or] No. We had before, and I believe we will have in the future. Now, it is the gun — I am sorry to say that — our guns, and our helicopters, and Hizballah

Katyushas are doing the talking in the area. No political talking now in the area. Most of the talking done now is by guns, not by any other political persons in the area. [passage omitted]

[Ze'ev] Units of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards are stationed in Lebanon, as you know. Would you consider this a legitimate target for Israel?

[Or] If you are talking about people from Iran who are acting against Israel, also through other people, of course yes. Soldiers or so-called volunteers from Iran who take part with Hizballah are also our target.

Israel: Gen. Levin Prepares North for 'Long Operation' in Lebanon

TA1104160196 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1505 GMT 11 Apr 96

[Interview with Israeli Major General 'Amiram Levin, commander of the Northern Command, by correspondents Shim'on Vilna'i in Kibbutz Gesher Haziv and Goni Mardor in the Jerusalem studio — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Vilna'i] Gen. Levin, what did you tell the mayors [of northern Israel]? Is the planned operation proceeding according to your expectations?

[Levin] At this point the operation is proceeding according to plans. I explained to them that we are getting ready for a long operation, that they must be patient and make preparations for quite a few days. We will be happy if it takes less time, but unfortunately, at the moment, they should make preparations for quite a few days.

[Vilna'i] What do you expect from Hizballah after the first day of this operation?

[Levin] I do not expect anything from Hizballah. Hizballah must stop firing Katyushas at the Galilee settlements and southern Lebanon. If it does not stop firing or threatening to fire Katyushas, it will have to go on absorbing our strikes, and I hope that these will be fierce ones. [passage omitted]

[Mardor] We heard complaints from citizens in the north that their lives have actually come to a total halt, but that no state of emergency has been declared. Will a state of emergency be declared?

[Levin] I do not know; that is up to the government to decide. I think that if the operation lasts several days, it would be fitting that the citizens enjoy all the benefits stemming from the declaration of a state of emergency.

[Mardor] Is it your impression that the operation will last at least a few days?

[Levin] That is correct.

[Mardor] Thank you very much.

Israel: Netanyahu To Support Continued Actions in Lebanon

TA1104192096 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Reacting to the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] operation in Lebanon today, Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu said that it is better late than never. According to him, this operation shows that the government is coming back to its senses, realizing that its past policy has failed. He stressed that we must continue striking at Hizballah and that the opposition will support the government if it decides to launch operations.

Israel: Peres Not Interested in New Understandings in Lebanon

TA1204051096 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres is not interested in a new understanding in south Lebanon. He said Israel is committed to the understandings reached after Operation Accountability in 1993, not just violations of it. He was speaking at a special meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee held last night to discuss the situation in the north.

Also at the meeting was IDF [Israel Defense Forces] chief of staff, Lieutenant General Amnon Shahaq, who said that Hizballah is in shock from the latest Israeli actions, but will not take long to recover. He also said that Israel is waiting for a response and does not rule out Hizballah attacks in the south Lebanon security zone and abroad.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0405 GMT on 12 April includes a report by Pe'erli Shahar on the Knesset committee session adding: "The chief of staff emphasized that the IDF reached activists it targeted, but he did not mention any names." "Shahaq said that at this point there is no mass exodus of south Lebanese residents to the north. Some people have left, but this cannot be termed a mass escape and no convoys can be seen.

["In the session, Prime Minister Peres reiterated there is no policy of restraint. Israel's considerations will be purely operational in nature."]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 12 April adds: "Prime Minister Peres told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee members that

Israel's activity poses a problem for Syria, because attacking Beirut amounts to harming a Syrian interest."]

Israel: IDF Warns South Lebanese To Leave Villages by 1130 GMT

TA1204101796 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is threatening to attack 41 towns and villages in south Lebanon and is calling for residents to evacuate their homes by 1430 [1130 GMT]. Our monitor Mikha'el Gurdus reports that the IDF announcement is being relayed via the Voice of the South radio station. Among the targeted towns are al-Nabatiyah and the villages from where the katyushas were fired at the northern settlements.

Israel: Paper Urges Deferring Lebanon Action to After Election

TA1104124196 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 Apr 96 p B1

[Editorial: "Limited Tolerance"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The claim to wholesale solutions in Lebanon was refuted by a series of military operations, from the raids on Fatahland and the al-Litani Operation in the 1970's down to the War of Lebanon, an operation that evolved into a war and replaced the PLO with Hizballah as the principal enemy on the Galilee border. The illusion — entertained by the planners of Operation Accountability — that Israel is capable of disabling Hizballah for a long time by forcing the flight of civilians and by putting pressure to bear on Beirut and Damascus, was likewise dispelled. Israel was left with retail solutions aimed at securing intervals of quiet days or weeks, at best.

In fact, this was the message Shim'on Peres sought to convey at his news conference two days ago, after the barrage of Katyushas on the Galilee, which hit Qiryat Shemona particularly hard. The Israeli restraint exercised a week and a half ago did not affect the Hizballah "infrastructure," although it achieved its immediate objective: Calm prevailed in the north on Passover, although not everywhere, after all. We can deduce from these developments that the bridle will be removed at a later date, and that date is at hand, the reasons being economic (a drop in tourism in the north at the end of the holiday season) and political (public rage in Qiryat Shemona, which was hit harder than by previous shellings and harder than other communities this time).

With the exception of the partially effective air raids, Israel has so far settled for absorbing the shellings, but even those who doubt the efficacy of offensives realize that the absorbent capacity of the northern sponge is limited: Another attack, and yet another, and the sponge will begin to seep: The population will seep southward, while votes — politicians believe — may rush to the right. Therefore, a dual attempt is emerging: More meticulous measures than formerly are taken to avoid killing Lebanese civilians, as much as possible, as their deaths are followed by Katyushas, and in parallel, some sort of an offensive whose advantages will hopefully surpass its anticipated damage is to be planned.

The safety valve of such an offensive is in the hands of Shim'on Peres, prime minister and defense minister, and of Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq. About 50 days before the premiership and Knesset elections, Peres is attacked by the right wing for being a soft politician, while his party is forced to imbue its slogan of "Israel is strong with Peres" with content. Yet he knows that he must steer away from the temptation of launching an operation that may fail, and that a government decision on a military operation can be implemented only if it is translated into a specific plan by the chief of staff. Lipkin-Shahaq, a cautious and moderate officer, is surely aware of the risks of military entanglements and of the political consequences of rash recommendations at such a time.

It is therefore regrettable that Binyamin Netanyahu has been unable to do better than make a trip to Qiryat Shemona and speak there of impotence against the nights in air raid shelters. Netanyahu has forgotten the wise restraint exercised by the Shamir government, in which he was deputy foreign minister, vis-a-vis the Scuds that were dropped on Israel during the 40 days of the Gulf war.

The nature of the incidents cannot be adequately controlled or predicted, but it seems that if they do not escalate, the government will do well to adhere to its policy of restraint. Perhaps after the elections, without the undue influence of extraneous factors and in conjunction with renewed political bargaining with Syria, the political, military, and civilian needs and pressures will accumulate into a need for action. Until then, the chief of staff, the government, and its political opponents bear a heavy responsibility: They have to make the lives of the residents of the north as normal as possible and to operate beyond the security zone only after a sober recollection of profit and loss.

Israel: Commentary Justifies IDF Operations in Lebanon

TA1104132496 Tel Aviv DAVAR RISHON in Hebrew 11 Apr 96 p 1

[Commentary by Ron Ben-Yishay: "An Upgraded Operation Accountability"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The situation created along our northern border over the past several months is the result of two developments: One is the freeze in the negotiations with Syria; the other is Hizballah's failure to crack the security zone. The failure made the Shiite organization escalate its activities, both inside and outside the security zone. As a result, there has been a rise in the number of casualties the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the SLA [South Lebanese Army] have been sustaining in the security zone, and in the number of Katyusha attacks on the Galilee settlements — with or without justified cause.

The restraint Israel demonstrated in an attempt to keep the political process alive, and its frequent appeals to the United States to plead with the Syrians, made Israel look weak — which encouraged Hizballah to continue, and even expand, its indiscriminate firing of Katyushas at the Galilee. Fearing Israel might back off from the negotiations with it, Syria encouraged the escalation because it serves as a daily reminder to the residents of Israel that there will be no peace in Qiryat Shemona if there is no deal on the Golan.

Clearly, a decisive IDF [Israel Defense Forces] operation is called for to restore quiet in the north and to reduce the level of conflict to one that is tolerable for the citizens of Israel — without sinking in the Lebanese quagmire and with as few casualties as possible. Obviously, there is no point in getting mixed up in a lengthy operation that would be costly in blood and money because experience has taught us that, in any event, in the absence of a stable political arrangement, calm in south Lebanon is temporary any way — a few months at the most. We have learned that highly motivated terror organizations cannot be curbed even in areas under our absolute military control, which is twice as true in a region such as southern Lebanon.

Hizballah activities could have been significantly curbed, if the IDF could operate freely and on a daily basis cutting off Hizballah's lines of supply, moving in and out of the region, maintaining intelligence activity in villages that serve as launching pads for terrorists, preventing Iranian coaching in the Lebanese al-Biqa', and striking at Hizballah headquarters in Beirut.

The problem is that the IDF cannot do all of this systematically and on a regular basis, mainly because most of Hizballah's training and preparation for operations takes place in areas under Syrian Army control. An extensive and prolonged IDF operation in these areas would mean numerous casualties and an entanglement in extensive guerrilla warfare in rough terrain. Also, there is doubt that it would indeed completely stop Katyushas from being fired at the northern settlements, and there is a chance of slipping into an all-out war with Syria, which would kill the political process.

The conclusion, therefore, is that temporary calm in the north is attainable only through a single strategic move: pressuring the Shiite population that shelters Hizballah. Disrupting life in the villages north of the security zone will make many flee. The mass of refugees arriving in Beirut can be trusted to apply the necessary pressure on Hizballah leadership, Syria, and the Lebanese Government. It must be stressed: This is not about killing innocent civilians, but about preventing the villagers from living normally.

Israel has the fullest moral justification to do just that — as long as the residents of northern Israel cannot observe normal daily routines. In other words, this is Operation Accountability B, the aim of which is to rewrite the rules of conflict in south Lebanon.

Israel: Tourist Wounded in E. Jerusalem Hotel Explosion

JN1204073896 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0500 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] There was an explosion at the Lawrence Hotel on Salah al-Din Street in the occupied city of Jerusalem this morning. One foreign tourist was seriously wounded in the blast. One his legs was blown off, and he sustained facial injuries. The explosion also severely damaged several rooms of the hotel. The cause and circumstances of the explosion have not yet been ascertained. The nationality of the wounded foreign tourist remains unknown.

Israel: 'Huge' Explosion at E. Jerusalem Hotel

TA1204061396 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] There has been a huge explosion this morning at a hotel on Salah al-Din in East Jerusalem. One person, apparently a member of the hotel staff, was seriously wounded.

Our police affairs correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that the blast was caused by explosives. The police are looking into the possibility that the incident was caused by a terrorist who was preparing a bomb.

Israel: 'Terrorist' Seriously Wounded in Jerusalem Hotel Blast

TA1204082296 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A terrorist handling an explosive device in his East Jerusalem hotel room was seriously wounded when it exploded.

Arye 'Amit, commander of the Jerusalem Police District, said that the bomb was not similar to bombs encountered in previous attacks.

Our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that the terrorist is apparently a foreign citizen.

Israel: Rockets Land in W. Galilee; No Casualties

TA1104121296 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1204 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Here is a report just in: Several rockets fired from Lebanese territory landed a short while ago in the western Galilee. There were no casualties or damage. This is reported by our correspondent Moti Eden.

Israel: IDF, Police Report No Katyushas Landed in W. Galilee

TA1104124596 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A supersonic boom that was heard in the area of Nahariyya an hour ago caused fears that Katyushas had fallen in the region. However, the police and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] reported that they know of no Katyushas landing in the western Galilee.

Israel: Katyushas Fall on Qiryat Shemona; Casualties Reported

TA1204070796 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Katyusha rockets fell 20 minutes ago on Qiryat Shemona. Five people were wounded and one of them is in very serious condition. Our correspondent Ilan Ro'e reports that there was heavy damage to property. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is returning fire. Qiryat Shemona residents are in their shelters.

Israel: Katyushas Land in W. Galilee; No Casualties Reported

TA1204072696 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0710 GMT 12 Apr 96

[Report by Avi Lifshitz in northern Israel — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] We have just received a report that katyusha volleys have not only landed in the Qiryat Shemona area. Volleys have landed all along the northern border, including in the western Galilee.

In the other volleys, however, there were no casualties. The only casualties were in Qiryat Shemona where one person was seriously wounded, another was slightly wounded, and several others suffered from shock.

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is currently shelling terrorist targets in south Lebanon.

Israel: More Katyushas Fall in W. Galilee; No Casualties

TA1204111396 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Another volley of katyushas was directed at the western Galilee and Marj 'Uyun approximately half an hour ago. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman reports that IDF forces are returning fire.

Our correspondent Moti 'Eden reports that there were no casualties and no damage was caused. One of the rockets started a fire and firefighters are currently putting it out.

Israel: 10,000 People Evacuated From Northern Border

TA1204093196 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 12 Apr 96 p A1

[Report by Eytan Rabin and Gabi Zohar]

[FBIS Translated Text] Approximately 10,000 residents of Qiryat Shemona left the city yesterday to get outside the range of the katyushas. According to the municipality's estimates, only 13,000 residents remain in the city. In other northern border settlements, local residents also left town on their own initiative. This is the largest evacuation of civilians from Israel's northern settlements since Operation Accountability in 1993.

In light of assessments that katyusha rockets might be fired at the city, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and Qiryat Shemona Municipality yesterday organized the evacuation of elderly people and children. Yesterday, IDF sources explained that no instructions or orders had been issued to evacuate civilians. The sources asserted that the evacuation was ordered by municipal officials after they were presented with a situation analysis. Nevertheless, the IDF announced that it would extend all necessary assistance to the municipality in order to guarantee the orderly and organized evacuation of citizens.

The evacuation began early in the afternoon. Approximately 1,300 children were evacuated to IDF vacation facilities: 500 children were taken to a facility in 'Akko without their families; other children were sent with their families to a facility in Netanya.

The municipality also evacuated approximately 500 elderly people. Some of them were driven by ambulance to Rivqa Ziv Hospital in Zefat. Approximately 1,000 Qiryat Shemona residents left by public transport and another 6,500 used their cars.

The heads of the local councils along the confrontation line yesterday reported that half of the air raid shelters in apartment buildings were in a state of disrepair. The main problems with the shelters are that they flooded during the recent rainstorms and the lack of electricity.

Schools will be closed today in most of the northern border settlements. The Education Ministry will decide whether or not to resume classes on 14 April depending on developments.

Israel: Large-Scale Operation Against Hizballah Said 'Inevitable'

TA1204081796 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 12 Apr 96 p B1

[Commentary by Ze'ev Schiff: "The Progression of a Military Operation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A large Israeli operation against Hizballah, and in effect against Lebanon, is inevitable. It is not because of inflammatory declarations, such as those made by Qiryat Shemona Mayor Prosper Azran, who has been adding fuel to the fire instead of calming his townspeople. It is inevitable because Hizballah has only left us one option: a large-scale military operation.

The Americans also feel the same way. Israel, not out of weakness, acceded to Washington's request to try and find a diplomatic way to calm the situation. Although Damascus responded to the U.S. entreaty two weeks ago by saying it would try to calm the situation, the Americans concluded that the Syrians did not want to halt Hizballah's activities. Consequently, Hizballah's actions are dictating developments in the field.

One large lethal operation is enough to prompt an all-out conflagration. From our point of view, this would mean that we had completely exhausted all the political and diplomatic moves that precede a military operation and that all that is left is to decide on the nature and dimensions of the operation.

Hizballah's latest katyusha attack on Qiryat Shemona and the Galilee was yet another step to obliterate the understandings reached after Operation Accountability. Hizballah actually said that it had the right to attack Galilee locations not only if Lebanese villages are hit, but also if Lebanese civilians are hit as a result of a military operation. In other words, it will continue to operate against the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the SLA [South Lebanese Army] in the security zone and even against Lebanese civilians in SLA-controlled areas, and if Israel tries to retaliate it will shell the Galilee settlements. I do not recall any Arab army having the audacity to adopt such an approach toward Israel.

Hizballah must understand that Israel will retaliate with a military operation. Perhaps it misconstrued Israel's slow response, perhaps power went to its head and defeated its logic and it feels encouraged by the flattery and money that Iran is showering on it as a reward for its operations.

Numerous suggestions have been made — including by those who failed in the 1982 Lebanon War — about to how to react to Hizballah's behavior. Former chief of staff Refa'el Eytan proposes expanding the security zone up to the al-Litani River. Purely on geographical considerations this would be an easier line to defend than the current one, but it would put another 200,000 Shiites under Israel's control. Do we need this? Do we need Shiites instead of Palestinians? And what if we have a hard time controlling them? Will we then expand the security zone once again?!

Hizballah is the target of our operation, and if we want to change the rules of the game in Lebanon and not just to retaliate, our operation should not be confined to the security zone. Otherwise, we will gain no significant achievement. It would be better to forego the operation altogether. Consequently, targets should be meticulously chosen throughout the al-Biqa' Valley, Beirut, and elsewhere. Hizballah's proximity to Syrian troops in the al-Biqa' should not make them immune in any way, especially since we are talking about Iranian Revolutionary Guards who do as they please in the area. Damascus and Tehran are cynically playing their Lebanese card at the expense of Lebanon's population, based on the assumption that nothing will happen to them. The Lebanese Government will probably raise a hue and cry, but it brought this calamity upon itself when it gave free rein to Hizballah, the Iranians, and the Syrians. All-out pressure must be brought to bear on it, either in the form of a naval siege or by a tidal wave of refugees descending on Beirut.

This will be quite a large-scale operation, but it will not provide a full military solution. We should not delude ourselves, since at most it will once again bring a long hiatus. Moreover, any military operation means that residents of the Galilee will have to sit in their shelters, as they did during Operation Accountability. It is a pity that the events in the north are taking place during an election campaign. Decisionmakers, the IDF first and foremost, ought to make their decisions independent of inflammatory pronouncements, even if tires are set ablaze in Qiryat Shemona. Eventually we will find that many of those calling for irresponsible military moves will be the first to criticize any military operation as soon as it is launched.

Israel: Bethlehem Declared 'Closed Military Zone' for 'Arafat Visit

TA1104115496 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The security forces have declared Bethlehem a closed military zone, and Israeli citizens have been banned from entering the city until further notice. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the city was closed prior to Yasir 'Arafat's anticipated visit to Bethlehem.

Israel: Netanyahu Warns Hizballah Not To Hope Likud Assumes Power

TA1204092796 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 12 Apr 96 p 3

[Report by Sarah Honig]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu expressed support yesterday for the latest operations in Lebanon, saying he hoped "they were not one-time limited replies."

He also warned the Iranians, Hizballah and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] not to wish the Likud would come to power "because we would make your life hell. It will not be to your advantage if a Likud-based government takes over because we shall relentlessly fight and pursue you."

Netanyahu was reacting to comments by OC Military Intelligence Maj.-Gen. Moshe Ya'alon, who contended that the Hizballah and Hamas operations were geared to remove Labor from power.

Likud sources expressed alarm at Ya'alon's comments, maintaining these were political interjections during an election campaign uttered by a general in uniform something insufferable in a democracy. Moreover, they said, the extreme Islamic organizations are not targeting the peace process but the state of Israel and Jewish lives in order to win Israeli concessions and to claim credit for concessions made under the Oslo framework.

Netanyahu maintained yesterday that "it will not do to engage in sporadic raids against the terrorists, be they Hizballah or Hamas. The fight against terrorists must be continuous. They must never be allowed to raise their heads."

He further said that he hopes Prime Minister Shim'on Peres and the Labor government "have by now awakened from their dangerous delusions that they can trust Israel's security to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad who was expected to keep the Hizballah at bay, and to PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat who was supposed to contain the Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

If the government has indeed reached the point where it has realized that it was on the wrong course and has now decided to change that course, it will enjoy our unwavering support," the Likud leader said.

The Likud's rising new star Maj.-Gen. (res.) Yitzhaq Mordekhay former OC Northern Command, said he had many doubts that what we have at hand is a real change. The government has made moves in the right direction, but sadly it is much too little much too late.

"When more than half of Qiryat Shemona is emptied, we have reached a very unfortunate situation which should never have been allowed to deteriorate as it had. Things were allowed to get this bad only because the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] hands were tied for political considerations and the Hizballah was allowed to run wild without containment, because the government was afraid to upset chances for a quick deal with the Syrians."

Jordan: Palestinian Official Denies Statements on Support to Hamas

JN1104183996 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cooperation between Jordan and the Palestinian National Authority was at the center of talks between Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti and Mahmud 'Abbas, head of the higher Palestinian-Israeli Negotiations Committee. [passage omitted]

In a press statement, Mahmud 'Abbas said that his current visit to Jordan is part of Palestinian efforts to prompt an Arab drive to help the Palestinians, especially since there are some Arab countries that care about the Palestinians, like Jordan, which can have its say and help alleviate the siege against the Palestinian people. Mahmud 'Abbas explained the Palestinian position in this regard, saying:

[Begin recording] ['Abbas] I held talks with the prime minister this morning. We discussed a host of issues, foremost of which is the required coordination among the Arab delegations and foreign ministers following the Sharm al-Shaykh conference. We also discussed unifying the Arab position on the agenda and on what is internationally required from the countries that attended that conference to promote the peace process, help the Palestinian Authority, ensure security, and fight terrorism. These four issues are being discussed now. We should coordinate our efforts regarding them. I explained to the prime minister the tough conditions we are encountering due to the Israeli closure and siege which have not been eased. We also reviewed the proper means to pressure the Israeli Government to halt these measures.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. 'Abbas, my question is: How serious are the Palestinian statements to the effect that Jordan shelters or supports the Hamas [Islamic Resistance] Movement?

['Abbas] I did not hear statements to the effect that Jordan supports the Hamas Movement. Therefore, I have no comment on this issue. I absolutely did not hear such statements. We do not have such a position. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Jordan: Minister Denies Presence of Egyptian 'Extremists' in Jordan

JN1204113796 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 12 Apr 96 p 26

[Report by Yahya al-Juju in Amman]

[FBIS Translated Text] Interior Minister Dr. 'Awad Khulayfat denied that the Egyptian Repudiation and Renunciation Organization has any media or political offices or elements in Jordan, and said the headquarters of this organization is in Egypt not in Jordan.

In an exclusive statement to AL-DUSTUR, Dr. Khulayfat said all the AFP reports attributed to the Egyptian interior minister about the presence of terrorist elements affiliated to the Repudiation and Renunciation Organization in Jordan are baseless.

He said an Interior Ministry circular was issued to all airports and border checkpoints two years ago banning Muhammad al-Amin 'Abd-al-Fattah, leader of the organization, from entering Jordan. He said this person is not in Jordan and is banned from entering the country.

Dr. Khulayfat said he sent official memorandums to the Egyptian Interior Ministry requesting that Jordan be provided with all information available to Interior Ministry officials, but had thus far not received any response. He emphasized the close cooperation between Jordan and Egypt in all fields, and said he hoped this cooperation would continue in the interest of both countries.

AFP quoted Egyptian Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi as saying that a group of Islamic extremists belonging to the Repudiation and Renunciation Organization found refuge in Jordan and that their leader Muhammad 'Abd-al-Fattah escaped to Jordan and is leading a group of 57 members who reside in various Arab and foreign countries.

Jordan: Prime Minister Expresses Support to Lebanese Counterpart

JN1104203296 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti held a telephone conversation with Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri to inquire about the situation in sisterly Lebanon. He expressed Jordan's concern about the reciprocal serious military escalation, which exasperated with the Israeli military operations today targeting Lebanese citizens and positions.

The prime minister expressed the condolences of the Jordanian Government and people to al-Hariri, the Lebanese people, and the families of victims. He wished the injured speedy recovery. The prime minister asserted Jordan's support for sisterly Lebanon's right to restoring its land and arriving at a peaceful settlement on the basis of Security Council Resolution 425.

Al-Hariri thanked His Majesty King Husayn and the Jordanian Government. He emphasized Lebanon's desire to work out an agreement that will guarantee secuity and peace on the basis of Security Council Resolution 425. He explained the results of the latest Israeli military operations.

It was agreed to continue consultations and exert efforts to stop the bloodshed, check escalation, and resort to the resolutions of international legitimacy.

Lebanon: Shiite Figures Denounce 'Aggression,' See U.S. Role

NC1104113096 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1035 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din, chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council, has called for stronger national unity to confront the Zionist plans with a single political will. He also urged the inhabitants of south Lebanon and Western al-Biqa' to stay on their land and foil the enemy's plans to expel them. He greeted our people, who are known for their patience and steadfastness.

Mufti Shaykh 'Abd-al-Amir Qabalan, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council, has stated that Israel's expansion of its aggression and its attacks on innocent citizens in their homes and villages represent attacks on the UN resolution themselves. Mufti Qabalan expressed regret over the Arab and international silence on the Israeli attacks. He said: We see the United States giving full rein to the usurping Zionist entity to carry out the ugliest forms of terrorism and crime against the Lebanese people. He urged the Army and the Resistance to cooperate in facing the aggression against Lebanon. He called for the formation of a permanent emergency committee to follow up the situation. He said Israel will fail to sow sedition among the State, Resistance, and Lebanese people.

Lebanon: Hizballah Warns of Hitting 'Enemy' 'Where it Hurts Most'

NC1104121496 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1145 GMT 11 Apr 96

[Statement issued by Hizballah on Israeli attacks on 11 April—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] At 1000 this morning hostile Zionist warplanes raided residential areas in the Southern Suburb and the areas of Harat Hurayk and the al-Sahil Hospital. Several civilians, including children and old people, were hurt. This comes on top of the air attacks the Israelis have been conducting against the various Lebanese areas since dawn today.

Hizballah disputes enemy allegations that its planes were targeting military centers in the Southern Suburb. Hizballah sees in this aggression a desperate attempt by the enemy to evade its responsibilities by targeting civilians. Hizballah sees in the expansion of the enemy's aggression a clear indication of the profound crisis the enemy is facing as a result of the heroic operations by the Islamic Resistance.

Hizballah warns the enemy against keeping up its serious and lowly game of targeting civilians, because the arms of its men, who dealt the heaviest blows to the Zionists, are long and capable of hitting the enemy where it hurts most.

Lebanon: Hizballah Official Threatens Response to 'Zionist Raids'

NC1104135996 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1330 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Shaykh Nabil Qawuq, Hizballah official in charge of the south, threatened to respond with all possible methods to the Zionist raids that targeted the eastern and southern parts of Lebanon today and extended to Beirut. According to a final toll, four persons, including a Lebanese soldier, were martyred and 9 were wounded in these raids.

Shaykh Qawuq said in a statement to journalists: We will reject no method of response to the Zionist aggression. He remarked that the Israelis have lit the fire and that this fire will burn them.

Following an inspection of some Islamic Resistance positions in the south, Qawuq said: The Israelis have miscalculated. We know their weak spots and we will do our duty. They will harvest nothing but regret.

Lebanon: Iranian Ambassador—Peres To Blame for Consequences

NC1104140496 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Commenting on the Israeli attacks, Homayun 'Alizadeh, Iranian ambassador to Lebanon, accused enemy Prime Minister Shim'on Peres of wanting to benefit from this escalation internally and electorally. Peres alone is to blame for the consequences.

Following a meeting with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, Homayun explained that a bombardment [by Israel] of the Iranian Embassy in Lebanon would not serve security, stability, and peace in the region.

Lebanon: Israel Warns It Can Strike Anywhere in Lebanon

NC1104142596 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 1330 GMT 11 Apr 96

["Text" of "Communique No. 4" on 11 April — read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] Authoritative Israeli security sources have stated that the Israeli Defense Force [IDF] current operations in Lebanon are in response to the recent escalation in Hizballah operations against Israeli citizens and the inhabitants of the border region. These

Israeli operations are a clear-cut and unambiguous message to the terrorists that Israel is capable of striking anywhere the terrorists exist, whether in al-Biqa' or in Beirut.

Israel requests the Lebanese citizens not to believe the twisted logic of Hizballah that is claiming it as their guardian when it is seeking to achieve Tehran's goals. Hizballah is using Lebanese citizens as human shields to protect itself from Israel's strong arm. The proof is that ultimately the inhabitants are compelled to leave their homes and escape following all evil operations that take place in their areas.

The Israeli sources affirmed that Israel will not tolerate any harm done to Israeli citizens and to inhabitants of the border region in any way and under any excuse. They reasserted that unless calm prevails in northern Israel and the border region, it will not prevail anywhere else in Lebanon.

Lebanon: Foreign Minister—Israeli 'Attacks' Destroy Peace Process

NC1104145396 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has stated that the current Israeli attacks will destroy the peace process. He accused Israel of trying to cause internal divisions in Lebanon. He noted that he is studying the possibility of submitting a complaint to the UN Security Council.

Minister Buwayz said Israel, which claims it wants real peace, is destroying that peace today.

Lebanon: Al-Hirawi Briefs al-Asad on Israeli 'Attacks'

NC1104145496 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi today received a telephone call from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, who was briefed on the Israeli attacks. The two presidents exchanged views on the current developments and the steps that could be taken in this regard.

Lebanon: Israeli Helicopters Hit 'Civilian' Car; 2 Wounded

NC1104145596 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1400 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli helicopters at 1630 [1330 GMT] today targeted a white civilian Mercedes at the intersection of (Dar Zghayya-Barish) near the checkpoint of the Ghanaian unit of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon. The vehicle's two passengers were wounded.

Lebanon: Israeli Helicopter Fires Rocket at Road

NC1104152296 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1450 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] An Israeli helicopter fired a rocket on the road to Burj Rahhal in southern Lebanon a short while ago. Security sources have asked the citizens not to use their cars and not to walk in open spaces and fields.

Lebanon: Hizballah Media Official on Response to Israeli Attacks

NC1104153696 London MBC Television in Arabic 1508 GMT 11 Apr 96

[Telephone interview with Hajj Nayif, Hizballah media official, in Beirut by Fatimah Bin-Huhu; live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Bin-Huhu] Hajj Nayif, when you fired Katyushas at northern Israel, did you know that the response would be in Beirut; and how will you respond to the new Israeli bombardment?

[Nayif] First of all, we did not start the shelling of the northern parts of occupied Palestine. The shelling was in response to Israeli attacks that targeted Lebanese civilians.

We take it upon ourselves to respond to bombardments the occupation forces direct at Lebanese civilians. We respond to this by shelling civilians residing in the settlements in occupied north Palestine.

Hence, our response is in this framework, regardless of what the Israelis might do. As long as there are attacks by the Israelis against Lebanese civilians, the Israeli civilians will not be safe.

[Bin-Huhu] It seems that your operations against Israel are being conducted without sufficient coordination with Lebanon and Syria. The Lebanese Army looked unprepared for the confrontation, while Syria satisfied itself with a denunciation. Do you think that coordination should be stronger?

[Nayif] Resistance operations are not subject to political coordination, which exists at the level of communication and contacts. But resistance acts are not subject to the process of political coordination; they are subject to field developments that have to do with the presence of the occupation forces. As long as there is occupation, there must be resistance.

[Bin-Huhu] Thank you.

Lebanon: Israeli Helicopter Raids Grove; Gunboats Cruise Coast

NC1104155096 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1520 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] At 1730 today, a Zionist helicopter fired one missile at a citrus grove in the al-'Ayn area in the outskirts of Bidyas. There are no reports on casualties.

Zionist gunboats are cruising off the coast from al-Naqurah to al-Sarafand. Hostile helicopters are flying over Tyre and its outskirts at medium altitude.

Lebanon: Iranian Envoy Says Bombing Peres Election Ploy

LD1104175196 Tehran IRNA in English 1624 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut, April 11, IRNA — Iran's ambassador to Beirut Homayun 'Alizadeh told local reporters here Thursday that Shim'on Peres was trying to increase his stakes in the forthcoming elections by indulging in reckless adventures such as the raiding Thursday morning of Beirut and elsewhere in Lebanon.

He said such behavior of the Zionist regime was the root of tension in the Middle East.

Asked if the Zionist government would be tempted to attack Iranian institutions in Lebanon later on he said it was not totally unlikely that it might do so but that it would not be in the interest of peace and stability of the region which, he said, the Zionist regime had professed to be concerned about.

'Alizadeh said the Zionist regime was responsible for its criminal perpetrations and that the United States, too, would have to assume equal responsibility with it for having supported those operations.

Lebanon: Hizballah Official Threatens Retaliation for Israeli Raid

LD1104180696 Tehran IRNA in English 1629 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut, April 11, IRNA — The head of the Hizballah council in south Lebanon, Shaykh Nabil (Gharun), said "we will retaliate the Zionists' Thursday air attack on residential areas in Lebanon."

Shaykh (Gharun) made the statement during his meeting with the Islamic resistance combatants in the contact lines with Israeli forces.

He added that the flame of this war will soon engulf the aggressors.

"Being aware of the Achille's hill [as received] of the Zionist regime, we well know how and where to inflict our blow, Shaykh Nabil (Gharun) finally added.

Lebanon: Hizballah Official Condemns Israeli Raid

LD1104181196 Tehran IRNA in English 1647 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut, Lebanon, April 11, IRNA — Chairman of the Political Council of Hizballah of Lebanon Muhammad Ra'd said here today that the resistance forces in Lebanon were not incapable of responding to Thursday raids of Lebanon by the Zionist regime.

He said the air raids against targets in Lebanon Thursday was part of a scenario in the elections campaigns being led by the Zionist regime.

The Lebanese official said it had long since been due for international circles to realize that the Zionist regime was the cause of all tension, unrest and instability in the region.

Thursday morning, the Zionist regime raided Beirut and other targets in southern and eastern Lebanon involving a civilian casualty of at least 13.

Lebanon: Al-Hariri on Israeli Attacks, Peace Condition

NC1104172596 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 11 Apr 96

[Press conference by Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri with unidentified correspondents in Beirut on 11 April — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] [Words indistinct] in various areas. How do you explain this?

[Al-Hariri] The cycle of violence has continued from the time we came to office — that is, for more than three and a half years, and even before we came to power. I have explained on many occasions that Lebanon is a country that has suffered from terrorism and paid a very heavy price because of it. Thousands of its sons were martyred by terrorist operations. Thus, Lebanon can be only a victim of terrorist actions and war.

We are a state seeking peace. As a state we have a great interest in peace. What is happening now and what has happened in the past and during the past few months does not serve the interest of peace at all. This is why we reiterate our stand that the only way we can break out of this situation, and of the vicious circle that has continued for several years, is through the implementation of the UN resolutions, the implementation of Resolution 425.

Resistance is the result of occupation, regardless of who is doing the resisting, regardless of the history of the persons carrying out this resistance and regardless of their political views. However, these persons and this resistance are the result of this occupation. Therefore we cannot deal with the result without dealing with the reason for it. The reason is the occupation. We reiterate our call to Israel to withdraw from the occupied Lebanese territories, because the Israeli occupation presence is providing the pretexts for all these operations on Lebanese territory. The attacks on innocent people, killing of women and children, attacks on commercial premises, and aggression against people in their houses will not solve the problem at all. Such a way does not bring solutions. Violence breeds only violence.

We reiterate our call to Israel to withdraw from the occupied Lebanese territories and implement Resolution 425. If Israel does that, there will be no pretext for Hizballah to be armed, or for anyone other than the Lebanese Army and the Lebanese security forces to carry weapons. His excellency the president already said before the United Nations that the Lebanese state will take responsibility for security in the south if Israel withdraws. In the name of the Lebanese Government, I reiterate, and back, what he said, and I say that if Israel withdraws from south Lebanon, this entire cycle will immediately end, and we will be responsible for security in south Lebanon. The solution is clear to us. Other than that, we are not in a position to stop these things.

I heard the statements made by the Israeli officials who said: We are addressing a message to the Lebanese Government because it is responsible for what is happening. The Lebanese Government is not responsible for what is happening. The occupation, and only the occupation, is responsible. There is occupation. It has caused resistance. The resistance — whether we like its political status, views, and connections or not — exists because of the occupation.

We are not going to enter into a clash with the resistance — specifically with Hizballah — as long as there is occupation. We have explained this position to Israel dozens of times through U.S. and other envoys. The whole world knows our position. We cannot embark upon an operation until after Israel has withdrawn from the Lebanese territories. When Israel withdraws from the Lebanese territories, there will no longer be any excuse for any side to be armed or to open fire on Israel from Lebanese territory. His excellency the president has pledged this. I, in the name of the Lebanese Government, have reiterated it, and I am again reiterating it now. The solution is clear: not more violence but more peace — that is, withdrawal from the occupied Lebanese territories.

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Mr. Prime Minister, in the event the Israeli aggression continues and expands, what effect will this have on the peace talks?

[Al-Hariri] Undoubtedly, the Israeli attacks and all military operations are against the peace process. What is happening now in south Lebanon and Israel?

What is happening now is that there is a conflict within the Israeli leadership. There are elections coming up. The situation in south Lebanon has become a topic for discussion in the election campaign. Some people do not want a certain side to win in the elections. They provoke the resistance in Lebanon, the resistance responds, and a state of instability is created. In fact, Israel is basically the cause of the problem. There are people in Israel who do not want the situation to calm down, who do not want solutions, and who do not want Israel to withdraw. Those people carry out these provocations. And of course, the resistance responds to these provocations.

[Correspondent] Are there contacts to reach an agreement similar to the July 1993 agreement [reached following Israel's Operation Accountability]?

[Al-Hariri] We are in touch with all friendly states, in order to explain to them our position and to repeat to them what I have already stated. As you will notice, we adopted this position months ago, years ago. It is the same position. An operation takes place. Israel strikes back. They respond. We say: This is not the way to a solution. The solution lies in implementing the UN resolutions.

We all are caught in a vicious circle. How can we avoid this vicious circle? The only solution is for Israel to withdraw from the occupied Lebanese territory. It is said that the Lebanese state should disarm the resistance. Those who are demanding this know that it is impossible. They know that the Lebanese state will not do this, regardless of whether we agree or disagree with Hizballah.

Today, there is occupation. There are people who are resisting this occupation. The Lebanese state cannot help Israel continue its occupation of Lebanese territory. If anyone is helping these operations take place, it is Israel and the Israeli occupation. This is happening because of internal Israeli differences, and because of the upcoming Israeli elections.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Al-Hariri] Look, we cannot lie to the public. Israel is capable of carrying out operations. We are a small and peaceful country. We do not have the military capability to repel Israeli attacks, nor do we have the capability to confront the Israeli Army if it decides to carry out a large-scale operation. This is well- known, not a secret. Is this not so? We say that if Israel carries out an operation, be it large-scale or small-scale, such an operation would be fruitless. It would result only in the displacement of people and in the killing of innocent elderly people, women, and children. If the aim is to kill innocent old people, women, and children, I tell you that Israel is capable of killing innocent children and old people. Israel has a huge military machine to kill people. But that will change nothing about the situation. Israel cannot finish off Hizballah. It cannot change Lebanon's position. There is no other solution for us and for them.

There is a single solution. The only solution is for Israel to withdraw from the occupied Lebanese territory. There is no other solution. As regards their request to the Lebanese government for it to tangle with Hizballah, this will not happen because that would mean an internal war. We will not do that, because to do that would not help anything but instead further complicate matters.

Lebanon: Unnamed Hizballah Official Reportedly Killed Near Tyre

NC1104181796 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 1730 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A leader of the terrorist Hizballah organization was killed this afternoon during an Israeli helicopter attack on terrorist targets near Tyre. Press reports say an Israeli helicopter fired an air-to-surface missile at a car moving on the coastal road near Tyre, killing one of the leaders of Hizballah in southern Lebanon.

Lebanon: Israeli Helicopters Said Opening Fire on Civilian Cars

NC1104183396 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The treacherous Israeli terrorism against the southern areas is continuing. The towns of Habbush and 'Arab Salim are coming under heavy artillery shelling from the enemy post in Tallat al-Zaffatah. Heavy machine gun fire is also being directed at the two villages.

Meanwhile, enemy helicopters have continued their attacks on southern towns and villages. An Israeli helicopter fired an air-to- surface missile at a house in Bidyas, destroying it. Some six enemy helicopters are flying over the various main roads in southern Lebanon, opening fire on civilian cars.

Lebanon: Radio Updates Casualties—Israeli Flights Continue

NC1104193696 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The latest toll from today's Israeli raids that targeted Ba'labakk, the Southern Suburb, Tyre, the Iqlim al- Tuffah hills, and al-Jiyah is six dead, including a Lebanese Army martyr. Fifteen others were injured.

Israeli warplanes and helicopters have been flying over the central and western sectors, al-Nabatiyah, and Iqlim al-Tuffah since 2000 at medium and low altitudes. The warplanes are dropping thermal balloons and flares, drawing anti-aircraft fire from the Lebanese Army.

The Israeli forces have been shelling Yatar, Kafra, Haris, and Sribbin in the central sector since 2100. The al-Litani River basin, Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, Habbush, and 'Arab Slim were also shelled after 2000 today.

Lebanon: Israeli Shelling Reported; Villagers Leave Homes

NC1204053196 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Israeli aggressions continued intermittently throughout the night. At 0615 this morning, the Israeli troops shelled the outskirts of al-Mansuri, Majdal Zun, [word distinct] and al-Hinniyah-al-'Izziyah-Zibqin road. According to sources, a 155-mm shell fell near a checkpoint of the Nepalese UN force in the south at the eastern entrance to the al-Hinniyah village. The shelling lasted until 0700 today and was accompanied by flights of enemy helicopters, which opened machine gun fire on the valleys adjacent to villages in the Western sector. [passage omitted]

The tense atmosphere in the south has prompted some villagers living in areas close to the occupied zone to leave their homes in search of safer villages and areas.

Lebanon: Hizballah Fires Rockets at Galilee as 'First' Response

NC1204073496 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Hizballah has carried out its threats against Israel and fired a salvo of rockets, numbering 15 Katyushas, at Galilee, this morning. An Israeli military source has reported that the rockets that fell on Qiryat Shemona wounded six persons at least.

[Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic at 0722 GMT in a news flash adds: "A short while ago the following statement was issued by the Islamic Resistance, which is Hizballah's military wing: In implementation of the promise made by Hizballah to defend civilians regardless of the consequences, and in a bid to foil the new equations that the enemy is trying to dictate, the Islamic Resistance has fired a salvo of Katyusha rockets at northern Israel this morning as the first response to the Israeli raids against Lebanon."]

Lebanon: Hizballah Chief Vows To Hit Northern Israel in Retaliation

NC1204072596 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Hizballah Secretary General His Eminence al-Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah has affirmed that the response to the aggression that targeted Beirut's Southern Suburb yesterday will not necessarily be in northern Israel, but could be anywhere else. He added: We will pick the time and place, and both will be a surprise to Shim'on Peres and his political calculations. The formula of equating [the security of] Beirut with Qiryat Shemona will fall.

In an address last night, His Eminence Nasrallah sent greetings to the steadfast people, who were subjected to various types of Israeli aggressions in several Lebanese areas yesterday. He expressed condolences to the families of the martyrs and wished recovery for the wounded. He added: Hizballah's leadership has met, in the presence of the resistance leaders, to study the situation in light of yesterday's events, including all its background, significance, and dimensions, and at the same time to determine ways to confront and pursue the path we chose many years ago to serve our cause, which everybody knows about. We want to handle this stage with extreme accuracy and care because we want to face this battle and all its possibilities with our minds, determination, awareness, and jihad, not with our emotions. Accordingly, what I say now and what we will say and do are carefully calculated and well thought out on our part, and we are fully prepared.

He added: We want to be clear with our people and to be as clear as possible with our enemy. This is because we want to deter this enemy with words and deeds as well. He added: Let us begin with the July understanding. Let us discuss the new equation that the enemy wants to establish through its aggression yesterday, particularly in Beirut's Southern Suburb. The Zionist enemy talks about the security of Qiryat Shemona in exchange for the security of Beirut. But it is precisely this enemy who in previous times engaged in all types of aggression against our people in the south and in Western al-Biqa' as well as against all forward villages for flimsy reasons and excuses. However, they all reflect the well- known history about the barbarity and brutality of this enemy, which yesterday killed children, builders, and women and brought homes down on the heads of their owners.

The Hizballah secretary general added: This new equation is rejected. We are clear here. The security of civilians in Lebanon, in the south, and in Western al-Biqa' in particular and the security of settlers in the settlements of northern Palestine is one thing and the aggression against the Southern Suburb is a totally different matter. We will not accept any confusion between the two issues. He added: As far as the first issue is concerned, I want to tell Shim'on Peres, his chief of staff, and officials in northern Palestine that the only way to provide security for the settlers is not to harm our civilians. There is no other way for us. Neither air bombardment nor intimidation, expansion of the battle's geographical area, or use of the Air Force will be of any avail. I reiterate the decision of Hizballah and the Islamic Resistance: Any harm to our civilians will be met with harm to the settlements and settlers in northern Palestine, regardless of the consequences threatened by Peres and his chief of staff. Let the enemy shell wherever it wants and let it do what it wants. This will not change our decision, will, and determination to protect our civilians.

Addressing settlers north of occupied Palestine, al-Sayyid Nasrallah said: Call it what you want, July understanding or no July understanding: We in Hizballah are absolutely not concerned by the terms, concepts, or definitions. What concerns us is that when our civilians are touched your civilians will be touched, too, no matter what consequences they talk about. Yesterday our civilians were the target of aggression, a clear and flagrant aggression. We will respond to the aggression and will bombard the settlements in northern Palestine. I will not announce the day and will not say so at the appropriate time. I will not say it will be today, tomorrow, or when, but this is our decision and they should wait for the reply. In this regard, I would like to tell the settlers that the significance of what has happened for the elections is quite obvious. If they really want to pressure Peres and their leaders to stop any harm to Lebanese civilians by further escalating the military situation, this means the settlements and security in northern Palestine will not be spared. We have written this equation with our blood and the blood of our women and children. No one in the world can change any part of it.

Lebanon: 3 Wounded by 'Zionist' Shelling in South

NC1204075296 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0735 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Our correspondent in the south has just reported that the Zionist shelling has expanded to include the outskirts of Jibshit, ('Atshit), Shukin, and Mayfadun, which were the target of approximately 50 shells. The shelling coincided with flights by warplanes. Two Lebanese Army personnel have been wounded at their post near the Tele Liban station in Shukin. Citizen Samahir Jabir, 26 years old, was wounded as a result of the shelling against Shukin.

Lebanon: Hizballah Fires 'New Salvo' of Katyushas

NC1204075496 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0744 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Resistance fired a new salvo of Katyusha rockets at the Zionist settlements, north of occupied Palestine a short while ago. The firing of this salvo comes as a continuation of its response to the treacherous Zionist aggression. Security forces said that eight people were injured by the rocket attack.

Lebanon: Hizballah Radio Reports Israeli Air Raid Against Jibshit

NC1204081496 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0800 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Zionist warplanes five minutes ago raided the outskirts of Jibshit, targeting an area called al-Murabba'ah.

In another development, the radio of the agent militias [Voice of the South] in the occupied border zone has broadcast a statement giving citizens four hours to evacuate their residence in the following areas: The Al-Qulaylah area in Tyre district, Jibshit in al-Nabatiyah, ('Atshit), and Haruf, claiming that the Zionist army command will return the rocket attack aimed at the occupied areas.

Lebanon: Katyusha Rockets Said To Fall in Israeli Metulla Settlement

NC1204082596 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0804 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear listeners we have just received information that a third salvo of katyusha rockets landed in the settlement of Metulla a short time ago. Earlier, several rockets targeted Qiryat Shemona and Nahariyya settlements.

Lebanon: Citizens Warned To Vacate Areas 'Within 4 Hours'

NC1204083296 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0803 GMT 12 Apr 96

["Text" of Communique No. 3 issued on 12 April—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] Further to communique no. 2 in which we asked citizens to evacuate four areas before 1430 [1130 GMT] today, the time when the Israeli shelling is to begin, we now give you the names of the villages in these areas: The villages in al-Qulaylah region: al-Qulaylah, al-Mansuri, and al-Hinniyah. The second region includes al-Bazuriyah, Majdal Zun, Zibqin, Siddiqin , 'Aytit, and Jibal al-Butm. The Khirbat Silm region includes Khirbat Silm, Majdal Silm, Shaqra, Qabrikha, Tulin, al-Ghanduriyah, al-Sultaniyah, Bi'r al-Salasil, al-Jumayjimah, and Safad al-Battikh. The citizens of all these villages must leave their places of residence within four hours and must be outside the aforementioned places by 1430 today.

Lebanon: Israeli Navy Begins 'Intense Military Operations'

NC1204084296 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0828 GMT 12 Apr 96

["Text" of Communique No. 7 issued on 12 April — read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] Responsible Israeli security sources have informed us that Israeli navy began today, 12 April 1996, intense military operations all along the Lebanese coast and near the ports of south Lebanon to curb sabotage acts from the sea.

Lebanon: Southern Radio Urges Villagers To Leave

NC1204084796 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0810 GMT 12 Apr 96

["Text" of Communique No. 5 issued on 12 April—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] Further to Communique No. 4 issued today, here is Communique No. 5 addressed to the inhabitants of Jibshit-al- Nabatiyah. To the inhabitants of the villages of Zawtar al- Sharqiyah, Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, Yuhmur, Tibnit, Shukin, Mayfadun, Jibshit, 'Adshit, Kafr Sir, Qa'qa'iyat al-Jisr, al-Nabatiyah, Kafr Rumman, and 'Arab Salim: Inhabitants of these villages are urged to leave their places of residence within four hours; that is, be outside the aforesaid region by 1430 [1130 GMT] this afternoon.

Lebanon: More Village Inhabitants Asked To Leave Areas

NC1204085196 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0820 GMT 12 Apr 96

["Text" of Communique No. 6 issued on 12 April — read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] This communique is addressed to the Yatar villages. The following are the names of the Yatar villages: Yatar, Haddathah, Bra'shit, Kafra, 'Ayta al-Zutt, and Tibnin. The inhabitants of these villages must leave their places of residence within four hours and must be outside the said areas by 1430 [1130 GMT] today. He who forewarns is excused.

Lebanon: Israeli Air Force To Begin Action 'at 1130 GMT'

NC1204091596 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0852 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The following areas will be hit by the Israeli air force at 1430 [1130 GMT] today due to the firing of katyusha rockets at northern Israel and the security zone by Hizballah: Al-Qulaylah, Khirbat Silm, Jibshit, al-Nabatiyah, and Yatar.

Lebanon: Israeli Warplanes Raid Tyre; Truck, Van Bombed

NC1204092296 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0915 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] We have just received word that the Zionist warplanes raided the region of Tyre a while ago. Zionist helicopters bombed a truck and a van along the road to the city.

Lebanon: Wider Significance of Israeli Beirut Raids Viewed

MS1204092696 London THE GUARDIAN in English 12 Apr 96 p7

[Report by David Hirst: "Return to the Bad Old Days"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut — To enter the Dahiya, Beirut's southern suburbs, yesterday was like going back in time to the civil war, to the reign of the militias which waged it. In this teeming, impoverished Shi'ite bastion, armed men of the Iranian-backed Hizballah were out in force, standing in doorways, Kalashnikovs at the ready, controlling traffic and preventing access to the Hizballah offices which three Israeli helicopters had just struck with air-to-ground missiles. There was only a sprinkling of Syrian and Lebanese soldiers in sight.

If Hizballah's members are classified as "terrorists" then the Dahiya is its vast untrammelled haven. It was just such havens which the international "anti-terrorist coalition", established after last month's summit in Sharm al-Shaykh, had made it its business to eradicate, or at least the Israelis and Americans had.

In fact, Lebanon had always expected that it would be the first external target of a stepped-up "anti-terrorist " campaign, and of a growing need by Shim'on Peres, the Israeli prime minister, to appease public opinion thirsty for retribution.

The assault on the capital was small, symbolic almost. Only one man died in Beirut. But as the first of its kind for 13 years, it was a big escalation, especially when taken with another air raid on Hizballah depot near the Syrian frontier, and a helicopter attack — also the first of its kind — on a Lebanese army position in Tyre.

Hizballah has given the Israel's more than the usual provocation recently. It insists it has not been violating the United States- brokered "understanding" that ended Israel's last great incursion into Lebanon, Operation Accountability, of summer 1993.

Under that "understanding", Hizballah agreed not to launch missiles into northern Israel, and Israel agreed not to strike civilian targets beyond its "security zone" in south Lebanon.

But Hizballah attacks have been growing in intensity, daring and sophistication. In addition to its routine, long-range shelling, its men have gone on raids deep into the "security zone". And with its new round of suicide bombings, it is emulating Hamas. Even more provocative, perhaps, is its rhetoric, which grows in menace and self-assurance. As one Israeli columnist said, it is no longer the Israeli government which "advises" border residents to go down into the shelters, it is Hassan Nasrallah [as published], secretary- general of Hizballah.

Hizballah boasts about Israel's acute dilemma. It knows it is impossible for Israel — as Mr Peres said last week — to withdraw from the "security zone", but also that it is very risky for Israel to mount an all-out attempt to crush Hizballah once and for all.

As widely expected in Beirut, Israel has tried something more psychologically and politically dramatic than militarily effective. But it virtually guarantees that Hizballah will retaliate in kind. And it will do so, not merely with Iranian support, but, very probably with Syria's too.

President Hafiz al-Asad's position in this new flare-up in the Arab-Israeli conflict will be critical.

Since the Sharm al-Shaykh conference, Mr al-Asad thinks Syria is becoming the target of an "anti-terrorist" campaign so biased in Israel's favour that it has imperilled the whole peace process. "I don t say the door of peace is closed, but it is narrowing," Mr al- Asad said last week.

Syria, officials insist, will never go back to the stalled Syrian-Israeli negotiations on Israel's terms, among them the reining in of Hizballah. And for the first time since the 1991 Madrid peace conference, officials say the US has forfeited its role "as the honest broker it pledged to be".

As for the war in south Lebanon, Mr al-Asad said it was Israel not Hizballah, which was violating the 1993 "understanding". He said no "honest person", Arab or otherwise could call those seeking to liberate their territory "terrorists".

Mr al-Asad's growing sense of isolation has been increased by what he sees as a whole array of new "alliances" Israel and the US are hoping to forge in the region. Under an Israeli-Turkish military agreement announced last week, Israel can deploy warplanes in Turkish territory. This has caused undisguised alarm in Syria.

So has the visit to Israel, evidently for talks on strategic co- operation, of the Jordanian chief of staff. This is being followed by joint US-Jordanian manoeuvres which Damascus denounced yesterday as a "dangerous precedent in Arab modern history".]

Lebanon: Radio Names Villages To Be Shelled 'This Afternoon'

NC1204094196 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0912 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear listeners, in the southern villages and towns: I repeat to you the names of the villages that will be the target of Israeli shelling after 1430 [1130 GMT] this afternoon: In al-Qulaylah and its villages: al-Qulaylah, al-Mansurah, al- Hinniyah, al-Bazuriyah, Majdal Zun, Zibqin, Siddiqin, 'Aytit, and Jabal al-Butm. In the areas of Khirbat Silm and its villages: Khirbat Silm, Majdal Silm, Shaqra, Qabrikha, Tulin, al-Ghanduriyah, al-Sultaniyah, Bi'r al-Salasil, al-Jumayjimah, and Safad al-Battikh. In the area of Jibshit and al-Nabatiyah and their villages: 'Aqrabin, Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, Yuhmur, Kafr Tibnit, Shukin, Mayfadun, Jibshit, 'Adshit, Kafr Sir, Qa'qa'iyat al- Jisr, al-Nabatiyah, Kafr Rumman, and 'Arab Salim. In Yatar and its villages: Yatar, Haddathah, Bra'shit, Kafra, 'Ayta al-Zutt, Tibnin, and Haris.

Lebanon: Specialist Says Syria Gains Most From Israeli Raids

MS1204094096 London INDEPENDENT in English 15 Apr 96 p7

[Article by Andrew Rathmell, Middle East specialist at Center for Arab Gulf Studies at Exeter University: "Syria Will Gain Most From the Beirut Raids"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israeli helicopter gunships yesterday rocketed Beirut for the first time since 1982. It was a calculated escalation in the worsening cycle of violence between Israel and Hizballah in Lebanon. The raid, coming a day after Hizballah fired rockets into northern Israel, marked the failure of US diplomatic efforts to contain the violence and led to fears that Israel may repeat its 1993 offensive, which displaced 300,000 Lebanese civilians. After that offensive both sides agreed to respect certain lines — no attacks on Lebanese civilians and no attacks into Israel. Both sides have now violated the accord, with bloody consequences.

The attacks were the latest turn in the escalating cycle of violence that has gripped Lebanon in recent weeks. On Wednesday a Hizballah mortar attack killed an Israeli soldier and wounded three others in Israeli-occupied south Lebanon, a day after a barrage of Katyusha rockets had hit the Galilee settlement of Kiryat Shemona, wounding 36 Israelis. The Katyusha attack was portrayed as retaliation for a roadside bomb in Braachit, north of the Israeli- controlled zone, which killed one Lebanese civilian and injured three on Monday.

The number of Hizballah attacks on Israelis has risen to more than 100 this year. By the end of March Israeli patience was wearing thin. It was only American influence that restrained Israel from launching a large-scale retaliation.

A combination of Israeli electoral politics, Syrian-Iranian tensions and Syrian-Israeli rivalry lies behind the current escalation. Prime Minister Shim'on Peres knows that his weak point in the Israeli elections, set for 29 May, is his perceived softness on security. The steady trickle of Israeli losses in south Lebanon has helped to undermine a reputation already tarnished by the Hamas suicide bombings. By authorising tough action in Lebanon he hopes to regain some credibility. He hopes that an Israeli escalation will force the United States to intervene and pressure Syria, whose troops sit astride Hizballah's supply lines, to clamp down on guerrilla attacks. Israel's director of Lebanon affairs, Uri Lubrani, warned that Syria would get a "whopping" if it intervened to protect Hizballah.

Syria is not, however, the only power with influence over Hizballah. Recent Syrian-Iranian tensions have highlighted the role Iran still plays in supplying Hizballah's military wing, Islamic Resistance, with training and arms. Iranian training has been partially responsible for the movement's spate of military successes and there are evident splits between Hizballah's military and civilian leaders.

The former have vowed to fight on while the latter recognise that their future lies in acting as a Lebanese political party since a Lebanese-Israeli peace treaty would make their armed struggle redundant.

Divisions between Syria and Iran and within the Lebanese Shia community have been accompanied by signs that the more moderate Shia movement, Amal, has recently increased its armed operations against Israeli troops. Amal is unequivocally a Syrian proxy and has been used in the past to counter Hizballah when the latter got out of hand. The return of Amal as a military force may demonstrate that Syria fears it is losing control over Hizbollah's fighters.

In any case, for now Syria is happy to see Hizballah make Israel bleed. The Syrian-Israeli peace talks have been halted since the wave of Palestinian suicide bombings and will not restart until after the Israeli election. President Hafiz al-Asad does not however want to be forgotten. By allowing Hizballah to operate he reminds Israel that it cannot live securely without peace on the Golan in return for which al-Asad would pacify south Lebanon.

If the fighting escalates and grabs international attention, so much the better. His nightmare is to be marginalised while Israel builds a regional block with the Palestinians and Jordan. The current flare-up in Lebanon can only serve to distract Israel from this goal.

Lebanon: Jibshit Coming Under Air Raid; Thousands Flee Villages

NC1204100796 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0956 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated text] Israeli acts of aggression against south Lebanon are continuing. Israeli military aircraft are now raiding the village of Jibshit.

In the meantime, the Israeli ultimatum to the population of 41 towns and villages in the south to leave before being subjected to violent bombardment as of 1430 [1130 GMT] today has led to the exodus of thousands of people to Tyre and Sidon.

Lebanon: Anonymous Caller Warns of Attacks on U.S., Israeli Targets

TA1204102596 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] An unidentified person has called a news agency in Beirut and warned that the members of an group called the Organization of the Oppressed will strike American and Israeli targets worldwide. The caller claimed that this organization was responsible for the attack on the Israeli Embassy at Buenos Aires approximately four years ago in which 29 persons were killed.

Lebanon: Islamic Organization Threatens Israeli, U.S. Interests

NC1204104396 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1025 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In a contact with AFP, the fundamentalist Organization of the Oppressed [Munazamat almustad'afin alusuliyah] has threatened to carry out operations against Israeli and U.S. interests throughout the world in retaliation for the Israeli air raid on Beirut yesterday. A spokesman for this organization said: Our forces will strike deep at Zionist targets in Tel Aviv and will make Jewish blood flow like rivers, as they did in Buenos Aires.

Lebanon: Nasrallah—Response to Beirut Attack Not in North Israel

NC1204112096 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1010 GMT 12 Apr 96

[Statement by Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah on 11 April; place not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] As regards Beirut and its suburbs, they want to include Beirut and its suburbs in the equation of the security of Qiryat Shemona, or the security of northern Palestine, as they said. I would like to say clearly: The response to today's attack on Beirut's suburb will not be in northern Palestine. Northern Palestine and Qiryat Shemona have nothing to do with what happened today in Beirut's Southern Suburb. The response to this will be in another place, any other place. I will certainly not say now where this place is. We will specify the place, and we will choose the time. Both the time and place will surprise Shim'on Peres and his political calculations. We say that this equation, Beirut-Qiryat Shemona, [words indistinct].

If the Israeli enemy has a weapon it has not used so far, as it says; namely, the Air Force — and the enemy forgets that it always uses this weapon — we also have various weapons, not only one. We can use these weapons to break this equation. The day will come, very soon, when Shim'on Peres will regret that he pushed things to this level, the level of attacking the capital and the Southern Suburb. Finally, I would like to stress that our option of resistance will continue until we achieve liberation and victory. Our land will return to us; we will restore it. We will liberate our kin on the border strip and return them to the homeland. We will defend and protect our kin outside the border strip.

When civilians were killed in Yatar, we did not hear one word from the world, and when children were killed in Bra'shit, we did not hear one word from anyone. And a few years ago, when children were killed in al-Nabatiyah [words indistinct]. We do not need words from anyone in the world. Over the years, we have clearly learned that we can defend ourselves, our people, and our kinsfolk and that we can regain our territory through our blood. This is what we did, and this is what we will be doing. Let them not be happy with what they did today; what they did today will bring only regret to Shim'on Peres, his government, and (?the settlers). They will all pay a very heavy price. They have to abandon this equation; they have to leave our land; they have to stop attacking our kinsfolk and people. This is the only way to solve the problem, not persistence in aggression, occupation, and shelling. Peace be upon you.

Lebanon: 'No Alternative' to Stepping Up 'Resistance' Against Israel

MM1204111796 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 12 Apr 96 p 17

[Article by 'Abd-al-Wahhab Badrakhan: "It Is War..."]

[FBIS Translated Text] The targeting of Beirut's southern suburb was expected, and the shelling of positions in Ba'labakk has become a routine operation. This, however, did not translate into either Lebanese or Syrian preparedness to thwart the Israeli raids, which, as usual, looked like a pleasure stroll or just a training exercise for the enemy's Air Force.

It is war, in the widest sense of the term, even for those who want to bury their heads in the sand and neither see nor hear. It is an open war against civilians, to whom Israel has again issued a warning, which it extended to the Lebanese Army. The enemy boats surrounding the Lebanese coast have opened fire on civilian cars, while planes shelled the al-Sahil hospital, causing Beirut airport to close.

Israel now has a "cause" which has gained international legitimacy, namely the fight against "terrorism." It will not be deterred from it by the possibility that urban areas may be hit. In the occupied Palestinian territories as in Lebanon, the civilians' fault lies in the fact that the "terrorists" use them as cover. There [in the Palestinian territories], a blockade is being imposed on the inhabitants without any consideration for what has been achieved under the slogan of "peace," while here, raids and the shelling of civilians are taking place. Lebanon, on the other hand, does not seem to have a cause, despite the many resolutions adopted by international legitimacy, and which, thus far, have not been implemented. No one knows why the state was lulled by promises and reassurances, despite the fact that it was alert and vigilant before opting to relax, believing that its international contacts would protect it from the tremors.

Either the resistance is operating with the consent of the Lebanese state and Army, and therefore there is no need to be embarrassed or ashamed of its activities. Or it is working for the interests of a third party, executing its orders, carrying out its policies and maneuvers, and lending itself to its plans, and therefore the state does not have to shield this party because what is happening is not in Lebanon's interest. Either way, it is the Lebanese civilians, who now seem to be the target of Israeli brutality, who are suffering. There is also damage to the state and its prestige, if it is still interested in maintaining its prestige in facing up to the enemy's attacks as much as when confronting its own citizens.

Unfortunately, Lebanese civilians today bear the consequences of the setback suffered by the "peace process" over the past months, leading to the freezing of the process. Some may believe that what happened yesterday is only an Israeli reprisal. What is worse is that some of these people may be decisionmakers (or should be). The fact is that the next six weeks leading up to the Israeli elections will be difficult. This is what everyone should be aware of. No ally, brother, or friend will be able to do anything. And neither the United Nations, nor the Security Council, nor international legitimacy can do anything. No meetings with the ambassadors of the five superpowers will succeed in putting an end to Israeli terrorism. For some time now, the job of the U.S. ambassador in Lebanon, as everyone knows, has been reduced to being merely a conduit for Israeli warnings, sanctioned by U.S. blessing and approval. When U.S. ambassadors in the region are asked, they will utter in unison the one word gleaned from their files, namely that the problem in south Lebanon is Hizballah and not the Israeli occupation.... That is what they are taught, and that is what they will say.

The situation in south Lebanon is perhaps the best gift to give the enemies of peace in the Israeli Army, supported in the government by confirmed terrorists who have become ministers, foremost among them two known terrorists, namely Ehud Baraq and Amnon Shahaq. This "party" seems to be the biggest winner in the "counterterrorism" deal deceptively camouflaged under the slogan of "rescuing" the peace. It can no longer be rescued, because Israel, on the pretext of combating terrorism, is fighting the peace itself.

In view of the Lebanese state's helplessness, failure, and vagueness, there is no realistic alternative but to ask the Lebanese resistance, whatever its name and purpose, to step up its attacks and operations and target civilians too, because the Israelis do not understand any other logic. They are planning to kill civilians and are openly saying it, and therefore there is no alternative but to treat them in the same way. It is war.

Lebanon: Hizballah Radio Reports 'Fourth' Salvo of Katyushas

NC1204112396 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1112 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A fourth salvo of Katyusha rockets landed on the Galilee region a short while ago. The Zionist military source, who admitted this shelling, did not specify the place or the time of the this salvo.

Lebanon: Southern Radio Asks Residents of 4 Villages To Leave Homes

NC1204112696 Kafr Kiila Voice of the South in Arabic 1100 GMT 12 Apr 96

[Communique No. 10 for "today"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli army has added another four villages to the list of places where it will hit Hizballah targets. They are Mashgharah, Suhmur, Jba', and Jarju'. Residents of these villages must leave their homes within four hours from the broadcast of this communique; that its before 1745 [1445 GMT].

Lebanon: Woman Killed, 3 Children Injured in Kafr Milki

NC1204112896 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1110 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transliterated Text] The Israeli bombardment of Kafr Milki has killed al-Hajjah Nazhah Muhammad al-Tawil and injured Aminah Muqbil and three young brothers—Hilal, Bilal, and Duha Mahmud Hammud and destroyed a Honda vehicle. Since 1255, the area between Qana and al-Ramidiyah came under Israeli 155—mm artillery bombardment.

Lebanon: Israeli Planes Destroy 3-Story Building in Tyre

NC1204113096 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1113 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Just in from the editors desk: Israeli military aircraft have raided al-Mu'aliyah village in the Tyre district, hitting a three-floor building owned by Qasim 'Arab and completely destroying it.

Lebanon: Radio Says Israel's Shelling Ultimatum Extended for 2 Hours

NC1204114596 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 1133 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] We begin our newscast with Communique No. 11, which we have just received:

Following pleas to extend the time given to inhabitants of the southern villages to stay away from their homes, the Israeli Army has agreed and decided to extend the ultimatum for two more hours. Thus, the final ultimatum for the start of the Israeli Air Force actions will be 1630 [1330 GMT], instead of 1430, this afternoon.

Lebanon: Mufti Qabalan Appeals to People To Hold Onto Homes

NC1204122096 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Mufti 'Abd-al-Amir Qabalan, deputy chairman of the Higher Shiite Islamic Council, has addressed an appeal to the people of the south, calling on them to hold on to the land and deprive the Zionist entity of this opportunity.

Mufti Qabalan said: Your homes are your fortresses, your refuges, and the places to which you always return.

Lebanon: Israeli Helicopters Raid Beirut Area, Bombard South

NC1204123196 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Explosions were heard in the vicinity of Beirut a few minutes ago. After contacting our correspondents and the security agencies, we learned that six Israeli helicopters strafed the al-Rasul al-Azam area on the Beirut airport road. There is no word yet on casualties.

In the south, the Israeli forces are currently bombarding Qabrikha, Majdal Silm, Bra'shit, Safad al-Battikh, and Shaqra.

Lebanon: More Israeli Raids Reported in Beirut Suburb

NC1204123396 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1216 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Here is the latest from our colleagues in the NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY:

Israeli warplanes are raiding al-Raml al-'Ali and the outskirts of the Southern Suburb [of Beirut].

The planes earlier raided the area of Harat Hurayk and fired two air-to-surface missiles.

Meanwhile, the Israeli helicopters are flying over the capital and firing thermal balloons, while the Israeli artillery is bombarding Kafr Rumman, Kafr Tibnit, al-Nabatiyah al-Fawqa, and the outskirts of Zawtar al-Sharqiyah and al-Gharbiyah. Moreover, (Hayy al-Musha'athah) in al-Nabatiyah is coming under 155-mm artillery bombardment.

Jibshit, Shukin, and 'Aytit had earlier come under similar bombardment.

We will provide you with further details as soon as we learn something.

Lebanon: Lebanese, Syrian Army Positions Targeted by Israelis

NC1204123796 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1228 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] We have just learned that the positions of the Lebanese and Syrian armies in the outskirts of the Southern Suburb have been targeted by the Israeli shelling.

Lebanon: Israeli Warships Bombard South Beirut Areas

NC1204123996 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1229 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Just in from the editors desk: Israeli warships and helicopters are currently bombarding the vicinity of al-Masjid al-'Azam and of Beirut airport up to the outskirts of the southern suburb.

Lebanon: More Areas in Beirut Suburb Come Under Bombardment

NC1204125996 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1234 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli warplanes have bombarded the approaches to the Hayy al-Sullam neighborhood in the Southern Suburb. Meanwhile, enemy planes are flying over the sea and firing thermal balloons. The planes are drawing ground fire.

Lebanon: SLA Radio Reports Raid on Beirut in Return for Katyushas

NC1204130296 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 1243 GMT 12 Apr 96

[Communique No. 10 for "today"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A short while ago, Israeli aircraft bombarded Hizballah targets in Beirut for the second time. This bombardment came after Hizballah fired Katyusha rockets at Israel in line with the rule declared by Israeli officials according to which Israeli military retaliation to rocket attacks on Israel will take the form of military operations in Beirut. As long as quiet does not prevail in Qiryat Shemona, there will be no quiet in Beirut.

Lebanon: Traffic Stopped at Airport; Syrian Officer Wounded

NC1204131096 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1250 GMT 12 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Here is a new report from the newsdesk:

Air traffic was stopped at Beirut International Airport at 1515 [1215 GMT] in the wake of the bombardment the Israeli helicopters conducted in the area surrounding the airport and the al-Rasul al- A'zam mosque.

It has been reported that a Syrian officer and a soldier were wounded in Madinat Nasir, near al-Rasul al-A'zam.

Lebanon: 4 Killed, Dozens Injured in Today's Operations

NC1204140496 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1334 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Just in: According to our correspondent, a short while ago, the Israeli air raids on the Beirut Airport road and the outskirts of the southern suburb have left at least 14 people wounded.

A Gulf Air airliner belonging to the Bahraini Airlines was forced to land at the Beirut Airport a few minutes before air traffic was suspended. The passengers are still aboard the airliner.

Police sources said that four civilians, including a 50-year old woman, were killed and seven others were wounded today as a result of the Israeli bombardment of the southern al-Biqa' valley where the Syrian army is deployed. They said that the source of the shelling in an Israeli occupied area of south Lebanon targeted in particular the towns of Suhmur and Mashgharah.

Lebanon: 6 Martyred in Artillery Bombardment

NC1204141296 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1346 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Here is a report from the newsdesk:

The villages of Suhmur, Yuhmur, and Mashgharah are coming under concentrated and fierce hostile artillery fire, during which six persons were martyred and four were wounded.

Lebanon: Israeli Warplanes Raid al-Nabatiyah

NC1204142096 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1409 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Zionist warplanes are now raiding the deserted Army barracks in al-Nabatiyah.

Lebanon: Islamic Resistance Detonates Bomb Under Israeli Patrol

NC1204142996 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1411 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Resistance has announced that, at 1645 [1345 GMT] today, it detonated an explosive charge on al-Jarmaq al-'Ayshiyah road as a mechanized patrol for the occupation forces passed. The Israeli forces shelled the area around the scene of the explosion using the heavy-caliber artillery in al-Zaffatah post. There is now intermittent shelling around Qasr Ghandur in al-Nabatiyah al-Fawqa.

Lebanon: Raid Kills 4, Wounds 7; 'Big Fire' Reported in 'Warehouse'

NC1204143596 Ba'labbak Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1330 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Zionist enemy has committed a horrific massacre in the township of Suhmur, where a Zionist shell hit a Mercedes, killing its four passengers, which included a woman. The martyrs are believed to have belonged to the same family.

Security sources have confirmed this information, pointing out that seven persons were wounded.

Moreover, Zionist helicopters raided the areas of al-Awza'i, al- Raml al-'Ali, Harat Hurayk, and the Beirut airport area at 1515 [1215 GMT]. A second raid was conducted over the suburb at 1520. The planes drew ground fire.

Media sources said that a big fire has broken out in a warehouse near the airport. Civil defense teams are fighting the fire. The sources noted that many civilians were wounded in Hayy al-Sullam and Bi'r al-'Abd.

Lebanon: Israel Reports 'Pinpointed Strafing' of Hizballah Targets

TA1204143796 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1420 GMT 12 Apr 96

[Report by military correspondent Avi Lifshitz]

[FBIS Translated Text] This report is just in: A very short time ago, the Air Force began a pinpointed strafing of Hizballah targets in villages whose residents were urged to leave six hours ago. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] ultimatum expired at 1630 [1330 GMT]. The villages include Yatar, Jibshit, Khirbat Silm, and al-Nabatiyah, which are known to be central bases for Hizballah terrorist activities.

Lebanon: Radio Says Shelling of 'Evacuated' Villages, Towns Started

NC1204144996 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 1430 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The bombardment [qasf] of Hizballah targets in the villages and towns, whose inhabitants have been warned to evacuate, has started.

Lebanon: Al-Hariri's Remarks to CNN Correspondent Reported

NC1204145396 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1417 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has just talked to CNN Correspondent in Beirut Brent Sadler about the situation in the south.

Sadler asked him about the situation at the airport, he said: They attacked Beirut airport today. A Lebanese soldier was killed and six Syrians were wounded. A total of 11 Lebanese civilians have been martyred and 37 wounded so far, he said.

Sadler asked him if they [the Israelis] have attacked military bases. Al-Hariri said: No. It was a position belonging to the Syrian army, but the entire position is civilian and Lebanese [as heard]

Prime Minister al-Hariri said: I do not know what the Israelis want, but they said that they would attack Hizballah. This is not what is happening now; they are attacking civilians. They say that they will destroy Hizballah bases, but they are only attacking the Lebanese civilians.

Prime Minister al-Hariri added in response to Sadler's question: This is a vicious circle. Israel entered the south in 1978. They said their entrance was because of the Palestinians. Since that time, security has not been guaranteed neither in the south nor in northern Israel.

In 1982, they forced the Palestinians to leave, but they continued their occupation of the south.

Al-Hariri said: Suppose that Hizballah is a problem. Israel is killing more civilians and strengthening Hizballah at the time it is destroying the economy. This is the vicious circle. Israel has to withdraw. If it withdraws, Hizballah will have no justification to carry arms.

Al-Hariri said: The problem does not lie in negotiating with Hizballah, which has a different political program. They are resisting the enemy. Israel says that solving the problem comes through [use of] force. We say that the solution to this problem is the political solution. I do not believe that Israel can defeat Hizballah, al-Hariri said, adding: Rabin tried this in the past, but what happened? We have to find a solution different from what they endorsed since 1978, the solution that did not work.

Al-Hariri added: Israel is trying to ruin the work we have accomplished; namely, the economic construction in Lebanon. This is what they originally said. They said that they would not let Lebanon build its economy. The problem does not lie in Hizballah's firing of rockets. We do not want to kill civilians on both sides. We want to end the occupation of our country.

Al-Hariri concluded the interview by answering Sadler's question on what he would like to say to the Israeli leaders. He answered: I say to the Israelis: What you are doing right now does not solve the problem. I am not saying that this side is right and that side wrong. There is a problem. Israel says that the solution lies in force. I know that they are stronger. We, Lebanon, are a small and peaceable country, and we never said that we could destroy Israel. We say that part of our country is occupied. Stop the fighting, end this vicious circle and withdraw from our land.

Al-Hariri added: I am not stubborn. I have no solution other than Israel's withdrawal from the south.

Lebanon: Military Personnel Requested To Report to Stations

NC1204151996 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1509 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] All the military personnel belonging to symbol K [Kaf] are requested to report to their stations immediately.

Lebanon: Civilian, Syrian Casualties Reported in Beirut

NC1204152296 Paris AFP in English 1412 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut, April 12 (AFP) — At least five civilians and two Syrian soldiers were wounded Friday as Israeli helicopters attacked the Shiite Moslem suburbs of Beirut for a second straight day, security officials and hospitals said.

Helicopter gunships fired three salvoes of missiles at the southern suburbs of Harat Hurayk, Hayy as-Sullam, and near Beirut international airport as part of their assault against the Iranian- backed Hizballah.

Anti-aircraft guns of the Iranian-backed group went into action but failed to hit the helicopters, which emitted heat balloons to evade the fire, an AFP correspondent said.

A Syrian army munitions depot was hit near the airport, triggering a series of explosions and sending thick black smoke into the air, security officials. Hospitals said at least two soldiers were wounded, one of them seriously.

Syria, which has condemned the Israeli assault launched Thursday against the Shiite fundamentalist group Hizballah, has 35,000 troops in neighbouring Lebanon where it is the key foreign power-broker.

Israeli helicopters also raided posts manned by the Lebanese and Syrian armies in the suburbs, military officials said.

A Syrian military vehicle parked near an anti-aircraft post was destroyed and a checkpoint next to a Syrian army post on the airport road was also hit, correspondents said.

Security officials said at least five civilians were wounded in Israel's second attack on the Lebanese capital in as many days. Thursday's raid was the first since the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

The latest raids forced the closure of Beirut airport until further notice, the civil aviation department said.

Israel helicopters hit a Lebanese army anti-aircraft battery at an entrance to the southern port city of Tyre on Thursday killing a soldier and wounding three others.

Lebanon: Hizballah Radio Reports New Air Raids

NC1204152896 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic GMT 1515 GMT 12 Apr 96

[Report by Sa'id Darwish in al-Nabatiyah — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] We were told moments ago that Zionist warplanes raided the town of al-Suba'iyah in the western sector at 1750 [1450 GMT]. At 1630, two raids were carried out against the deserted Lebanese Army barracks in al-Nabatiyah. At 1510, the aircraft raided a house in al-Qulaylah. [passage omitted]

Lebanon: Beirut Raid Seen as 'Message to Damascus'

MM1204153496 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 12 Apr 96 p 15

[Unattributed article: "Beirut Shelling — a Message to Damascus"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli air raids on Lebanon continued all day yesterday and resulted in five people killed and scores of wounded. Hizballah, which leads the Islamic resistance in Lebanon will certainly retaliate by firing more Katyusha rockets at the Israeli settlements in north Galilee.

Israel claims that it launched these raids in retaliation against a fedayeenn operation which resulted in one Israeli soldier being killed and three others wounded while on patrol in the so-called security cordon in southern Lebanon. The truth, however, is totally different and concerns Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres' electoral ambitions.

For Hizballah, to continue resistance operations in the border strip occupied by Israel is legitimate and is dictated by logic and God-given rights. What is not legitimate is Israel's occupation and all the other attacks that it has launched such as the shelling of the peaceful villages in the south and al-Biqa'.

It should be mentioned that by carrying out their raids over the southern suburb of Beirut for the first time in 14 years, in a blatant challenge to the Lebanese and Syrian Governments, the Israeli planes have this time crossed the red line. If the objective was to drag Syria into a military confrontation in Lebanon or force the Lebanese Army into a confrontation with Hizballah, this objective will not be achieved because both the Syrian and Lebanese sides are aware of the evil intentions of those behind it.

True, the recent raid on Beirut will undermine the stability and progress that the country is witnessing and restore the war atmosphere again, which will not only have negative repercussions on investments in the reconstruction, which have reached $5 billion thus far, but will also strike a severe blow at the peace settlement which has enabled Israel to achieve recognition and establish mutual trade and diplomatic relations with most Arab states.

The United States, which sponsored the peace from the beginning, must be aware of the danger that such reckless Israel behavior poses, otherwise it would not have urged the parties concerned to exercise self-restraint and refrain from undertaking any step which would harm the peace process. What is expected of it, however, is much more than that, because the collapse of this process could lead to the collapse of all its efforts, funds, and alliances in the region since its overwhelming victory in the second Gulf war.

With these raids, Israel is behaving like an outlaw state. Revenge on innocents is not the behavior of democratic states which respect human rights and abide by the laws of international legitimacy.

Israel has tried to use force, shelling, killing, and expulsion against all the forms of resistance in southern Lebanon and failed in all its previous attempts, because it dealt with the issue from a security viewpoint and did not provide political remedies such as implementing Security Council Resolution 425 which requires it to withdraw from southern Lebanon.

Consequently the current raids will fail, while the resistance will continue. One should remember that Menachem Begin's government thought that its northern settlements would be made safe just by driving the PLO out of Lebanon. And yet the PLO has returned to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip through the Oslo gateway, accompanied by 30,000 armed men and a strong Islamic resistance which, in eight days, has inflicted human losses on Israel that the PLO did not manage in eight years.

Contrary to what Uri Dromi, the Peres Government spokesman, says, killing and destruction is not the only language that Hizballah understands. It seems, however, that it is the only language that the Israelis and their government excel at, and that is why they will fail in Lebanon and elsewhere.

Lebanon: Israeli Helicopters Raid Lebanese Army Checkpoint in South

NC1204155096 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1525 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Zionist helicopters have raided a Lebanese Army checkpoint on Sarba-'Ayn Qana triangle in Iqlim al- Tuffah. The area around the Justice Palace in al-Nabatiyah is now coming under fierce artillery shelling, and Zionist warplanes are still flying over the south.

Syria: Paper Blames Israel for Escalation in South Lebanon

JN1204084296 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0455 GMT 12 Apr 96

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-BA'TH comments on the escalation of the brutal Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon. The paper says that this treacherous aggression exemplifies terrorism and hatred toward human beings and peace. This is not new for Israel, which continues to adhere to killing, bloodshed, and destruction, in the hope it can impose its will and policy on a people who seek to liberate their land and restore their freedom with all possible means in accordance with international norms and charters, which recognize resistance to occupation as a legitimate right.

The newspaper asks: What does Israel want from Lebanon? Why has it committed daily aggressions against Lebanon for more than 15 years? What are its objectives, and how far does it want to go? These are among the questions that are asked and will continue to be asked. The answer is simple and known all over Lebanon and the world.

The paper says Israel first wants to storm the south and entrench its occupation based on its scorched-earth policy. It then wants to divide Lebanon and draw it into the capitulative agreements. The paper refers to the heroic lessons which the valiant national resistance taught the invaders and which shook the ground beneath their feet.

AL-BATH says: The reason for the legitimate resistance is occupation. When the occupation ends, life will return to normal on the liberated soil.

AL-BA'TH concludes: Israel can escalate its aggression against Lebanon, but it cannot undermine its will, resistance, and determination to liberate its land. If Israel wants security in the north, it should immediately implement Resolution 425 and heed the international legitimacy resolution.

Syria: Commentary—Israeli 'Aggression' in Lebanon Harms Peace

JN1104142696 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1143 GMT 11 Apr 96

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear listeners: There is nothing new about the Israeli attacks on fraternal southern Lebanon. However, the aggression Israel is launching today is marked by signs rendering it a serious event portending more serious consequences. First of all, this Israeli aggression is large in scale because it is targeting many Lebanese areas from Tyre in the West to Ba'labakk in the East. This aggression is not confined to artillery shelling; units of the Israeli war fleet are assembling in Lebanese territorial waters. Moreover, Israeli warplanes are violating Lebanese airspace and are dropping shells of death and destruction on Lebanese cities, villages, and farms, in addition to the Israeli artillery shelling of Lebanese territories, large parts of which have become scorched or rather charred land as a result of the continuous Israeli aggression. Besides, this aggression comes after clear Israeli threats made by Israeli civilian and military officials. The most recent of these threats is that by an Israeli officer General ('Amiram Levin), commander of the northern area, who warned that the Lebanese people will be targets for Israeli shells. This Israeli officer spoke in a clarity that is horrifying to all humans who will never accept that innocent civilians become targets for aggression.

This Israeli aggression is by all standards unjust. Israel cannot provide even one reason to explain or justify it. The aggression against the civilians is absolutely unjustifiable. Israel takes the Lebanese resistance's activity as a justification for this aggression. However, all the liberated people of the world know that national resistance everywhere is not born out of a vacuum. Indeed, it is the inevitable result of foreign aggression and occupation. Hence, the Lebanese resistance in southern Lebanon is a result of occupation and the continued Israeli aggression such as the aggression Israel is launching today. The Lebanese national resistance is not a reason for this aggression as claimed by Israeli sources.

Israeli false excuses for this aggression are rejected not only by world public opinion. Israeli sources and officials themselves last week indirectly denied and refuted the justifications they are using today.

The Israeli prime minister admitted that the shelling of Yatar village in southern Lebanon was a mistake. Moreover, the Israeli officials apologized for what they described as a mistake. That mistake, in fact, was a violation of the understanding on not shelling civilian targets on both sides. Israel is now grossly violating this understanding and charging the Lebanese resistance with this violation. Naturally, Israel, which is occupying some Lebanese territories in the south, seizing Lebanese waters, and blocking the means of sustenance for the Lebanese farmers and fishermen, does not forget to claim that it wants nothing from Lebanon and that it does not have any expansionist ambitions on it. Moreover, Israel does not forget even to claim that it wants peace. It has reiterated this same allegation since the beginning of the siege on the occupied Arab territories on 25 February. What kind of peace does

Israel want to make over the remnants of the Arab victims of aggression and the debris of their houses and scorched land in southern Lebanon?

What is noteworthy about this Israeli aggression is that it comes a few days after French President Jacques Chirac's visit, during which he stressed the need to implement the UN Security Council resolution providing for the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanon. He also stressed the international community's concern about Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

What Israel is doing in Lebanon today has only one name: aggression. It is understood that this Israeli aggression and terrorism has harmful repercussions for the peace process. Therefore, the international powers concerned about the peace process should make Israel understand that the international community does not accept this Israeli aggression and that peace and security cannot be achieved on the Lebanese and Israeli sides and the entire region without Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the full implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy. Only this will lead to a genuine peace that guarantees security and stability.

Israel's threats and escalation today may lead to something, but not to a just peace, which is a unanimous international demand.

Syria: Khaddam, al-Shar' Receive UK Delegation

JN1104184896 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received at 1200 today a delegation from the British House of Commons. The seven members of the delegation represent the Labor Party, the Conservative Party, the Liberal Democratic Party, and the Council for Reinforcing Arab-British Understanding. The meeting was attended by Shakir Is'ayyid, chairman of the Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee in the People's Assembly, and the British ambassador in Damascus. Discussion dealt with developments in the region and bilateral relations.

Moreover, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' today received the British parliamentary delegation, headed by (Hugh Piley). The meeting was attended by Shakir Is'ayyid, chairman of the Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee in the People's Assembly, and Adrian J. Sindall, British ambassador in Damascus. Discussion dealt with the situation in the region, the peace process, and relations between Syria and Britain.

Syria: Paper on 'Alliances' Aimed To Weaken Syrian Stand

JN1204094696 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0455 GMT 12 Apr 96

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a commentary today, under the headline "Syria Does Not Succumb to Pressure," AL-THAWRAH emphasizes that Syria does not concoct crises with anyone. It says that In its relations with all parties, Syria strongly adheres to the principles of good neighborliness and noninterference in the internal affairs of any country. Syria also deals with others on the basis of equitability [takafu'], equality [musawah], and respect for principles of international law, the paper adds.

AL-THAWRAH emphasizes that such an approach has governed, and continues to govern Syria's foreign policy in face of the negative positions and convulsive reactions of some parties as a result of certain policies and open alliances aimed at harming, pressuring, and keeping Syria busy in side battles. This is in order to weaken Damascus' negotiation position in the peace process to force it to offer concessions to the Israeli aggressor which usurped the land, rights, and holy places, and which rejects peace based on international legitimacy.

AL-THAWRAH says Turkey wants to derive strength from Israel against Syria and other neighbors, and tries—through fabricating battles and crises here and there—to evade its own crises and difficult internal problems. Turkey also wants to absorb the anger of the Turkish people and contain the turmoil in the country. The Ankara rulers' crisis and main problem is with their people and not at all with Syria or any other country or people. The world and the Turkish people know this very well.

AL-THAWRAH concludes: Syria has exercised self-restraint for a long time and continues to do so in face of the various Turkish provocations, deception campaigns, accusations, and attempts to harm it. Syria also refrained from engaging in altercations and reactions out of eagerness to maintain the historical relations and the security and stability of its Turkish neighbor, which is a member of the Organization of Islamic Conference in which Syria is also a member.

In another comment, AL-THAWRAH says: Arab solidarity is essential at all times. However, it is a vital and urgent need at this particular time due to the grave danger facing the nation. This requires that all Arabs rise above their differences, look seriously at the dangers facing them, and mobilize all Arab potentials to confront these dangers.

The newspaper emphasizes that the seriousness of the stage requires an Arab awareness of the dimensions of the current developments and taking the suitable positions to confront these developments. Syria is in the forefront in this field. It calls and actively works for this solidarity, taking into consideration these dimensions as it sees them, and emphasizing that it will remain—as President Hafiz al-Asad—the national and pan-Arab fortress on which its citizens and all Arab citizens can rely.

Syria: Paper Links Anti-Libya 'Campaign' to Israeli Nuclear Leak

JN1104195996 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 9 Apr 96 p 3

["An Opinion" column by 'Ali al-Siwan: "A False and Unfair Campaign"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The clamor of the U.S.-Israeli campaign against Libya on charges of building a chemical weapons factory is intensifying. The nature of the clamor indicates that the charge is originally an Israeli one and that it aims at organizing a large- scale coalition against Libya.

The central factor proving the falsehood of this campaign is that it lacks any information based on careful and meticulous scrutiny. According to the Arab League and Libya, which stressed its open readiness for responsible investigation, the Libyan factory is for the production of materials for household use.

Moreover, the campaign is not only false, but also unfair. This is because its actual objective, as unanimously agreed upon by observers, is to deflect the world's attention from the issue of the nuclear leak from the Israeli Dimona reactor, especially since the Israelis reject investigation by any party, including the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA]. Israel still refuses to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Therefore, it refuses to bring its nuclear facilities under the inspection of the IAEA experts and rejects even their technical help to prevent a disaster in the region.

The United States is acting unfairly by implementing the Israeli policy on the Arab homeland. It adopts the Israeli allegations against Libya or others even if these allegations are totally false and even if double standards must be applied to prevent the Arabs from working to build the infrastructure of a civilian development. At the same time, it supports the Israelis to produce chemical and nuclear weapons of mass destruction and turns a blind eye to Israel's failure to join the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

The U.S. stand and the subsequent unfair campaign against Libya have been met with an extensive official and popular Arab indignation because falsehood and unfairness are short-lived. You may be able to deceive some people for some time, but you cannot deceive all people all the time.

Syria: Ba'th Party Palestinian Group Holds Speech Rally

JN1104174796 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The regional command of the Palestinian organization of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party today celebrated the 49th anniversary of establishing the party of the toiling masses, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

The al-Yarmuk branch command of the Palestinian organization of the Ba'th party held a speech rally on this immortal occasion at al-Nujum movie theater in al-Yarmuk camp. The speech rally was attended by comrade Muhammad Nasir, assistant regional secretary of the Palestinian organization of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; comrade members of the regional command of the Palestinian organization of the party; representatives of the Alliance of Palestinian Forces [APF]; and many guests.

Speeches by members of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the APF, and popular and Palestinian organizations were delivered during the rally. These speeches stressed that the leading party represents a great school of struggle throughout the Arab homeland, the ranks of which were joined by thousands of strugglers who believe in the inevitability of building the one Arab nation.

The speeches praised the national and pan-Arab stands of Arab Syria, under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad. The speeches note that despite difficulties, the Arab nation, which is protected by an impregnable wall represented by his excellency's school, must triumph.

The speeches denounced the Turkish-Israeli agreement, which represents a new aggression against the Arabs and Muslims in the region and harms Turkey's good neighborly relations and historical and Islamic ties with the Arabs. They also denounced the Sharm al-Shaykh conference, which came as a service to Israel's interests and hostile schemes. The speeches saluted President Hafiz al-Asad, leader of the Arab nation's march toward victory and liberation. They also saluted our steadfast kinsfolk in Palestine, the Golan, and southern Lebanon and the righteous martyrs, the noblest and most honorable human beings.

Afghanistan

Afghanistan: Rabbani Accuses Taleban of Acting Against Islam

LD1104203296 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, head of the Kabul administration, has accused the Taleban group of having no independence to run their own affairs and added that their actions are in open violation of Islam.

In his interview with Kabul Radio, esteemed Rabbani said that the Taleban group had no right to decide about the future of the Islamic government as they are acting on the instructions of foreigners.

Rabbani said: The Taleban session in Kandahar was part of a conspiracy controlled from abroad. People were assembled at this meeting by foreign pressure and they were forced to endorse a decision which had already been taken.

Rabbani pointed out that Afghans would never accept foreign control. He added: Neighboring countries, the United States, and European countries, can play an active role in exerting pressure on the interventionist countries to work for peace in Afghanistan. He also said that if other countries helped Afghanistan begin the work of reconstruction, this would strengthen the peace process in the country and he would welcome such cooperation.

Afghanistan: UN Security Council Discusses Afghan Crisis

LD1104214996 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pashto 1230 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In view of the broadening crisis in Afghanistan and the intensification of the fighting in this country, the UN Security Council held an special open meeting to discuss the situation in this war-stricken country.

At yesterday's session, the first speaker was Abdorrahim Ghafurzai, Afghan deputy foreign minister. He accused the Taleban forces and their supporter, Pakistan, of being the cause of the bloodshed and continued fighting in Afghanistan. He added that the world arrogance, led by America, in intervening in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, was attempting to install their puppet regime in this country.

Ahmad Kamal, Pakistan's representative, referred to the crisis in Afghanistan and, in denying Pakistan's assistance to any of the opposition groups, including the Taleban group, he said that the Islamabad government did not support any of the belligerent parties in Afghanistan.

Dr. Kamal Kharazi, Iranian envoy to the United Nations, also spoke. In expressing concern about the crisis in Afghanistan, he expressed the hope that this country's people, with the earnest help of international community, will manage to work out a durable cease-fire and to set up an acceptable transitional government. Once again, he emphasized the continued readiness of Iran to play its role in the normalization of the situation and in the restoration of peace in Afghanistan.

The representatives of China, Turkmenistan, America, Tunisia, India, and Tajikistan also spoke and expressed their respective countries' views.

Afghanistan: 'Progress' Noted in Talks With Opposition

LD1104193796 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The secretariat of the High State Council told BAKHTAR that an extraordinary session of the High State Council was held this morning, chaired by esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of Afghanistan and chairman of this council.

The session discussed the country's political situation and assessed as positive the progress of talks with opposition groups. The session emphasized that the talks should be continued.

Afghanistan: Hekmatyar Forces Capture District in Paktia Province

LD1104175696 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Taleban forces have been pushed out of Ahmad Khel district, Paktia Province.

A responsible source in Hezb-e Eslami forces in Paktia Province told a Radio Message of Freedom correspondent that yesterday, as a result of a successful operation by the Hezb-e Eslami forces, Ahmad Khel district, Paktia Province, was cleared of Taleban forces and the district is now under the control of Hezb-e Eslami.

As yet no reports are available on Taleban losses during this battle. It was however reported that local people took an active part in pushing the Taleban out of the district. [Words indistinct] the local people had been suffering badly from Taleban oppression and cruelty.

Afghanistan: Government Forces Capture Sargar District

LD1104192496 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto
to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Government forces seized Saghar district, in Ghowr Province.

A report received by Radio Message of Freedom says that government forces carried out a successful operation, under the command of Mohammad Ebrahim Malakotwar, in this Taleban-controlled district. This operation brought the district entirely under government control. The report adds that dozens of Taleban fighters were killed or injured in the fighting. Four Taleban fighters were taken alive.

Confirming the report, a Defense Ministry source in Kabul said that during the operation government forces had taken as booty one 82-mm artillery piece, two mortars, two DShKs, one RPG rocket launcher, 10 light weapons, and a quantity of ammunition.

The report adds that fighting is now continuing in the direction of Tolak and Perchi districts. Government forces are advancing.

It should be pointed out that several days ago Taleban aircraft raided Chaghcharan city, the capital of Ghowr Province, killing a number of innocent people. Local people condemned the air raid.

Afghanistan: Taleban Denies Territorial Losses to Government

LD1104195696 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto
to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kabul administration aircraft carried out heavy raids on Taleban positions to the south of Kabul.

A Radio Message of Freedom correspondent reported from Kabul that yesterday Kabul's air force carried out heavy raids on Taleban positions in Chahar Asiab and Mohammad Agha district, Lowgar Province, inflicting heavy losses on the that group.

The report adds that, according to the Kabul Defense Ministry the raids were in response to rocket attacks on Kabul by the Taleban group which had killed a number of Kabul citizens.

In an interview with (?BBC) radio, Mola Khairollah, a spokesman of the Taleban group, said that local people were killed, as a result of aerial raids by the Kabul administration, and the Taleban group sustained no losses. Khairollah spoke about the fighting between Taleban and the Kabul administration but denied the loss of any territory to the latter.

The Taleban spokesman claimed that the personnel of a number of government posts in Paghman district had surrendered to Taleban through the mediation of Dr. Saddiq Modabber, who had recently joined the Taleban group.

Bangladesh

Bangladesh: Caretaker Government To Draw Up 3-Month Budget

BK1204004696 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network
in Bengali 1500 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Professor Wahiduddin Mahmud, adviser on finance and planning, said an annual budget comprising a provisional budget will be drawn up for the first three months of the 1996-97 fiscal year. He was addressing a meeting of businessmen organized by the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Dhaka today.

Mahmud said the next elected government can revise the budget according to their needs. He said that every step will be taken to remove chaos from the financial sectors, especially in the tax and revenue structure.

Bangladesh: India Urged To Remove Barriers To Reduce Trade Gap

BK1104131196 Dhaka THE MORNING SUN
in English 5 Apr 96 p 4

[Editorial: "Entry into Indian market"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bangladesh has a good neighbourly relationship with India on both social and political plane. Economically, however, Bangladesh is in a highly disadvantaged position. While India's exports to Bangladesh have grown thirty fold over the last ten years, imports from Bangladesh into India, almost stagnant for the seven lean years, have registered only slight improvements over the last three years.

The reason for this high trade imbalance in the Bangladesh economy is the quick espousal of public sector reforms, hasty privatization moves, and trade liberalization measures concomitant with continued countrywide political commotion, work stoppage, sabotage and economic go-slow.

The economic and fiscal measures taken by the government immediately after coming to power were effective and powerful measures to boost trade and commerce within the existing economic setup. Thus interest rate was lowered with a view to diverting savings to investment and buttressing growth of commercial and industrial enterprises. Privatization was initiated to coax unprofitable public enterprises out of lethargy. Liberalization methods were adopted to induce foreign and local participation in investment and economic growth. These were the measures taken for improving the trade balance and bolstering economic progress.

The things so designed within the broader perspective of the plan could have very well been achieved, but the problem started because the whole socio-economic scenario of the country underwent drastic change. The problem with economic planning is that the goal may be achieved only subject to the assumed preconditions and background. There is an objective function which has to be fulfilled subject to certain constraints within the existing economic setting. So there are the dependent variables (things to be achieved) on the one hand and independent variables and parameters (things that will go to help achieve objectives) on the other. The parameters, socio-political situation and economic structure, was changed and everything envisaged within the plan went haywire.

Now that the situation is back to normal and is expected to go on quite the same, the execution of the plans for improvement of the trade balance may be in the running. So far only Indian goods have entered the Bangladesh markets unimpeded by trade barrier, but the Bangladesh goods have seen serious competition owing to escalation of cost for hartal [strike], work stoppage, damage, cost overrun, high fixed cost relative to dwindling variable revenue, and so on. There is another side to the story. While Bangladesh has accorded all possible favourable measures for entry of Indian goods into her market, Bangladeshi exporters find substantial trade barrier affecting imports into India. As a result, Bangladesh ranks India's eleventh largest market, with a turnover of about 2001 crore rupees, on the basis of official exports alone, but Bangladesh has a negligible share in the India market.

Bangladesh High Commissioner C M Shafi, at a seminar sponsored by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) last Tuesday [2 April], was quite right to strongly plead for entry of Bangladesh goods into Indian market by removing tariff and non-tariff barriers to reduce the trade imbalance. Listing a number of items which Bangladesh could export to India, Sami said privileged access of Bangladesh goods into India would also have other beneficial effects on the bilateral relations. To be sure, Indian external affairs minister aired India's full involvement in the development of economic potential of the area — which is a common heritage — would be beneficial to both sides. Taking into view the fact that the SAARC and SAPTA [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and South Asian Preferential Trading Arrangement] benefits are still a far cry, India had better take heed of what Mr Shafi has intoned and Mukherjee reiterated. So much will be the better for both the nations, neighbours and members of the SAARC.

India

India: Envoy to UN Opposes 'Foreign Interference' in Afghanistan

BK1004113896 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India has demanded an end to foreign interference in Afghanistan after Kabul squarely charged Pakistan with arming and financing Taleban Islamic militia to grab power. India's demand was supported by several members as the Security Council held a debate on the deteriorating situation in Afghanistan. Addressing the debate, Indian Ambassador, Mr. Prakash Shah, warned that continuing conflict in Afghanistan provided fertile ground for terrorism, arms transfers, and drug trafficking, which could destabilize the whole region. He said India has been a victim of state-supported terrorism from across the borders. Mr. Shah pointed out that the main focus of the world body's peace efforts in Afghanistan should be the cessation of hostilities, prevention of foreign interference, and outside support to rebels.

India: Sri Lankan Emergency Seen as 'Major Blow' To Democracy

BK1104153196 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 11 Apr 96

[Commentary by Shastri Ramachandran, senior assistant editor of THE TIMES OF INDIA]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The decision of the Sri Lankan president, Miss Chandrika Kumaratunga, to impose nationwide emergency, which has been ratified by the country's parliament, is a major blow not only to democratic processes in the island, but also to efforts to resolve the 13-year ethnic conflict. The presidential proclamation of the extraordinary measure was issued four days before the country was informed of it on 8 April. President Kumaratunga's extension of the state of emergency, which was till now confined to the war-torn Northeast and some other parts of the country, to the whole of Sri Lanka has come as an unpleasant surprise. The first and foremost the imposition of countrywide emergency is highly damaging to the democratic credentials of Miss Kumaratunga and her ruling People's Alliance. In the opposition, Miss Kumaratunga and her

People's Alliance had been uncompromising opponents of recourse to emergency provisions for normal governance.

Almost continuous emergency for several years with routine ratification by parliament were the features of the long rule of the former president, Mr. J.R. Jayewardene. The proclamation is initially for a month, but can be routinely extended with parliamentary endorsement as was done by Mr. Jayewardene. Secondly, Miss Kumaratunga had not only pledged that her government will not resort to emergency rule, but also declared that she will shed some of the sweeping powers vested in an executive president. The fact that she has reneged on both these promises made during the 1994 elections is a hard blow to her image and credibility. Quite apart from sullying her image as a democrat, the emergency proclamation is seen as a deliberate draconian attempt to thwart democratic processes, mainly the elections to the local bodies. The term of the local bodies having been extended by one year in 1995, elections will have to be held in June this year. However, any further postponement of the elections can be done only under emergency rule across the country. Hence, the suspicion that one of the motives is to further delay the elections to local bodies, which would have been a crucial test of her popularity, seems to be true.

The official reason of the emergency being for preservation of public order and maintenance of supplies and services essential to the life of the community is hardly convincing. Under emergency, the police and security forces enjoy much wider powers. This has given rise to speculations that the government of Miss Kumaratunga has declared the emergency as a prelude to another military offensive against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] and other Tamil rebels who have been waging a separatist war in the North for over 12 years. Under the emergency, which had prevailed in the North, the police and military had sweeping powers to arrest and detain anti-government activists for prolonged periods without trial. Since the success of the military operation, which wrested control of Jaffna from the LTTE, the Tamils have moved out to the East and Colombo and other parts of the island republic to continue their strike against Sri Lankan security forces. The LTTE's intransigence, which scuttled the political process for ethnic reconciliation, is now compounded by the government's hard-line approach.

The devolution proposals to transform Sri Lanka into a multi-ethnic pluralistic union of regions unveiled in Miss Kumaratunga's August 1995 has receded to the background in what is seen as a buildup for another military offensive against the Tamil Tigers. When Miss Kumaratunga assumed office, there were high expectations of bold initiatives for healing the wounds of the protracted ethnic war. Though there were reservations about the military offensive Operation Sunshine between October and December last, the success of the operation revived hopes of a return to the process of political negotiations. With the Tamil groups rejecting the devolution proposals and hardening of attitudes in both sides of the ethnic and political divide, hopes of reviving the political process is further dimmed than ever at the time of the declaration of emergency.

India: Concern Voiced Over Possible Russian Fighter Sale to PRC

BK1204030596 Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 11 Apr 96 p 7

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India has expressed its concern at the prospects of Russia selling to China the same Sukhoi-30 fighter aircraft for which it is currently conducting on-line negotiations with the Indian Air Force. The Russian response during the visit of its Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov was non-committal.

Russian sale of defence equipment to China has not been of direct concern to India so far. But New Delhi feels that with identical technology transferred, China might be in a position to master it at some stage and export it to countries unfriendly to India, feel officials of the External Affairs Ministry.

However, "in the changed international climate, India cannot claim an exclusive relationship. It is part of the international trade and we cannot ask Russia not to sell something to another country," a senior official said. He did not wish to be identified.

If India had Pakistan in mind when it expressed apprehensions, Mr Primakov was more than reassuring. He even went on record during his news conference that Russia would not sell military hardware to Pakistan.

"They respect our sensitivities so far as Pakistan is concerned and we need to respect theirs when it comes to China," the official said.

Commenting on the Primakov visit, External Affairs Minister Pranab Kumar Mukherjee recalled President Boris Yeltsin's remark made in 1993 that "India occupies a special position accompanied by relations of strategic importance."

"I can do no better than quote him and emphasise that the visit clearly reflects the importance that the two countries attach to their mutual relationship. It had nosedived with the end of the Cold War, but started looking up after the presidential visit. One of our achievements is to restore relationship and bring it to the earlier level," Mr Mukherjee told THE TIMES OF INDIA last week.

Precisely for this reason, the Primakov visit here needs to be seen in the context of President Yeltsin's visit to China scheduled for April 17, analysts say. A number of agreements, including one aiming to resolve the long pending border dispute, are likely. The Russian Foreign Minister was learnt to have assured the Indian side that the Indian interests in the region would be taken care of.

The Indians, on their part, appreciated the gesture. "If Russia and China settle their border problem, it is good for the region," the official said.

India: Two 'Dreaded' Terrorists Arrested in Punjab

BK1104144096 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Two dreaded terrorists, Dalijit Singh Bittoo and Gursharan Singh, were nabbed by the Punjab Police at Ropar last night. The director general of Punjab Police, Mr. O.P. Sharma, told our Chandigarh correspondent that these terrorists were responsible for committing several heinous crimes on the behest of Pakistan's intelligence agency, the ISI [Inter Service Intelligence]. The terrorists were also involved in bank robberies in Punjab, Bombay, Delhi, and Ahmedabad.

India: PTV Reports 'Civil Disobedience' Movement in Kashmir

BK1104010296 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In occupied Kashmir, the chairman of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference, Mir Waiz Omar Farooq, has called upon the freedom loving countries to pressurize India to release Kashmiri political detainees. He pointed out at the executive committee meeting of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference that most of the detainees were in jail for over seven years under TADA [Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Prevention Act], which has been invalidated by the Indian parliament.

Meanwhile, reports from South Kashmir said civil disobedience movement launched against the polls ploy in some rural areas, and it is likely to be extended to other areas in the next few days. Government offices and educational institutions have been closed in Doru, Kazirgund, Kukernag, Pahalgam, and several other areas.

More Kashmiris have been martyred in fresh acts of violence by Indian troops. Indian forces raided a house in Srinagar and shot dead three people. Two more persons were gunned down in Gandarbal area. A bomb blast occurred at a hotel in (Wathargam) in which three persons were killed. In Chanpura area of Srinagar, a mujahid [freedom fighter] Mushtaq Ahmad was martyred in an encounter with troops. This sparked large-scale anti-India demonstrations in the locality. Thousands of people took part in the funeral of the martyred mujahid.

India: 'Z Plus' Security Given to Kashmir Election Candidates

BK1204005496 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Election Commission has imposed a blanket ban on the use of state government-owned aircraft and helicopters by any chief minister or political leader during election period. The prime minister is, however, exempted from the ban in view of security reasons. The decision was taken at the meeting of the Election Commission in New Delhi today in the wake of reports that some state governments are misusing the state-owned aircraft and helicopters for election purposes.

Talking to newspersons after the meeting, the chief election commissioner, Mr. T.N. Seshan, said the decision is being conveyed to the concerned officials of all states and union territories. The commission has also issued instructions to all state governments that they should not bear the cost of erecting the rostrum or the dais for the election campaign by former prime ministers. Such arrangements would be left to the concerned political parties for which these leaders are campaigning.

The commission has cleared a proposal of the Home Ministry to provide the highest Z plus security cover and a bullet-proof vehicle at state expenses to all the candidates contesting elections in the Kashmir Valley. The commission has also asked the union Law Ministry to give its opinion on amendment to the Jammu and Kashmir Representation of People Act, 1957, and rules to allow about 1.25 lakh Kashmiri migrants to exercise their franchise from the places where they are presently living. The election commissioner, Mr. G.V.G. Krishnamurthy, said in New Delhi today that the Law Ministry is expected to give its view shortly and necessary notification would be issued thereafter.

The commission has sought a report from the chief electoral officer [CEO] in Bihar about the missing ballot boxes as reported in a section of the press. The commission said in New Delhi today that necessary action will be taken by the commission in this regard after the report of the CEO.

India: BJP Puts Prithvi Missile Development at Top of Agenda

BK1104064396 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 10 Apr 96 p 9

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Serial production of the Prithvi missile, operationalisation of the Agni missile and hastening the development of the improved Agni-II missile are at the top of the BJP's [Bharatiya Janata Party] national security agenda.

Pitching for a pro-active diplomacy, especially in the area of defence, the BJP manifesto's external security blueprint calls for stepping up the pace of India's missile programme and enhancing the preparedness of the armed forces.

Accusing the Congress Government of 'imperilling' the country's security, both internal and external, the BJP's main thrust appears aimed at what it calls "correcting the damaging imbalance" that has crept into the national security setup.

The BJP's demand to expedite the serial production of Prithvi assumes significance as just last year the United States had warned India not to embark on serial production of the Prithvi missile. So far India has only produced the short range Prithvi missiles for experimental purposes.

The party also wants a re-evaluation of the country's nuclear policy, with the freedom to exercise the option to induct nuclear weapons. "Though the BJP stands committed to a nuclear-free world, we cannot accept a world of nuclear apartheid", says the document.

The BJP maintains a strong opposition to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) in its existing form, unless there is a simultaneous agreement for a time-bound global elimination of all nuclear weapons.

India is increasingly being pushed by the Western countries, and the US in particular, to concede its position on the CTBT, currently being deliberated upon in Geneva.

According to Brijesh Mishra, convener of the BJP's Foreign Affairs Cell, the BJP's apprehension is that India would allow the conclusion of the CTBT to go through, even though India itself may not sign it. "This is a wrong strategy", said Mishra, stressing that the objective should be to stall any consensus from emerging until and unless all countries agree to a treaty to ban nuclear weapons globally.

The BJP is also quite categorical on the issue of a fissile material regime, which would be the next American priority if it succeeds in sewing up the CTBT to its satisfaction. "The BJP will not agree to the Fissile Material Control Regime (FMCR)", says the manifesto, also stressing the party's opposition to the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR).

Criticising the Narasimha Rao Government for "seriously compromising" the combat effectiveness of the defence forces, the BJP manifesto points out that the Congress Government has been functioning without a full-time Defence Minister for over three years, adding that "this negligence of India's sword arm has begun to affect the morale of our gallant forces".

The resource crunch that plagued the economy resulting in cutbacks in defence funding has lead to a general slowdown in defence acquisitions over the past few years.

The BJP manifesto clarifies that it will "accord due importance to all security-related issues". It calls for the immediate up gradation of conventional weapons and weapons systems of the armed forces, strengthening the Air Force fleet with an all-new generation of aircraft, qualitative and quantitative improvement of India's naval capabilities and greater investment in R and D [research & development] in defence and missile technology "so that we become self-reliant".

But one question that the BJP fails to address altogether is that of funding. The manifesto is silent on how the party's grand plans for upgradation of defence equipment will be financed and how and where the vast resources required for this task would be generated.

India: Congress Party Releases Election Manifesto

BK1204005396 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The All India Indira Congress-Tiwari has supported the idea of statehood to Pondicherry, Uttarakhand, Vidharbha, Jharkhand, Chattisgarh, and Bundelkhand regions. Fight against rising prices, unlimited borrowings and unproductive and wasteful expenditure are among other highlights of the party manifesto released in New Delhi today. Released jointly by the party president, Mr. Narayan Dutt Tiwari, and the working president, Mr. Arjun Singh, the manifesto says that the party will work for 100 percent literacy and electoral reforms. It also promises affordable and speedy justice, safe drinking water to all villages and free education and job opportunities for girls.

The party says if voted to power, it will confer ownership rights to slum dwellers of the land on which their houses have been built. Scheduled castes and scheduled tribes reservation list will be revised to include Christians of scheduled caste origin and others who have been seeking inclusion in this list for a long time. The party will give the highest priority to removal of poverty and illiteracy and to meet the basic needs of the people in a time-bound program.

On economic policy, the party said it will continue with the liberalization program which is totally in tune with our national development in the last 45 years. It will fix priorities for foreign investment in the country keeping in view the larger national interest. The party stands for reduction in the prices of fertilizers and improved variety of seeds by 25 percent and will abolish sales tax on agricultural inputs. It will take steps for amending the laws for giving ownership to farmers holding the land as tenants. It promises immediate setting up of lokpals [ombudsman] and lokayukths [local commissioners], implementation of the benami [illegal land holding] abolition act and the Prasar Bharati [Broadcasting Corporation] Act. The party will ensure speedy publication of the full Vohra Committee report on political and criminal nexus and expediting the Rajiv Gandhi assassination probe.

The Asom Gana Parishad, AGP, has promised social security to all sections of the people living in Assam if voted to power. Releasing the party manifesto in Guwahati today, the party president, Mr. Praful Kumar Mahanta, said AGP would reactivate the administrative and police departments to instill confidence in the people's mind. The manifesto favors decentralization of power in favor of the states. On the insurgency problem, the party says it would ensure a negotiated settlement.

India: BJP Releases 'Supplementary' Election Manifesto

BK1204025196 Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 11 Apr 96 p 5

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In a supplementary manifesto released on Wednesday [10 April], the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] has promised full statehood for Delhi and guaranteed security of life and property of the citizens.

This supplementary manifesto was released by the Delhi BJP president Kidar Nath Sahani, flanked by chief minister Sahib Singh, former chief minister Madan Lal Khurana, MP and campaign in charge Vijay Kumar Malhotra and former Delhi unit president OP Kohli.

Mr Sahani said, "There is nothing that we have left out of the manifesto." He added, "If the BJP forms the government at the Centre, all these promises will be made good."

The manifesto is in three sections — the first lists out briefly the achievements of the BJP government in Delhi; the second is the impediments faced by the government and the third contains the promises.

"The greatest impediment in the way of our government here is the dyarchy," Mr Sahani said adding, "Delhi is ruled by two governments — one at the Centre and, second, the city government."

Their most important promise took off from this impediment. "We will give Delhi the status of full statehood if the BJP forms the government at the Centre, allowing the Delhi government to work unhindered," he said.

Some of the remaining 54 promises are:

— Decentralising government here.

— Higher Plan money outlay.

— Holding elections to the superseded municipal corporation.

— Turning the now-nominated New Delhi Municipal Council into an elected body.

— A corruption-free and accountable administration.

— Guaranteeing security of life and property.

— Punishing the guilty of 1984 riots.

— Deporting foreigners.

— Ownership rights to residents of resettlement colonies.

— A separate municipal corporation for trans-Yamuna.

— Constituting a separate Housing Board for Delhi.

— Special discount in property tax for group housing societies.

— Decongesting the city.

— Making Delhi pollution free and green.

— Constructing a Ring Road along the border of the city.

— Mass rapid (rail-based) transit system, high-speed tram system.

— Exempting self-occupied village houses from property tax.

— Conversion of property from leasehold to freehold for a lump sum payment of 10 times the amount of lease money.

— An additional floor and 25 per cent increase in floor-area-ratio.

— Balancing the Delhi Rent Act to protect the interest of both the tenants and house-owners.

— Treating Hindi as the first language and developing Punjabi as the second language.

— Linking wages to the price index.

— Pension for poor disabled persons and financial assistance for poor widows.

— University campus in East and West Delhi.

— Opening new medical colleges, engineering colleges and management training institutes.

— Implementing the Chattopadhyaya commission for school teachers.

— Making Delhi totally literate.

India: Court Directs Government To Ban Import of Toxic Waste

BK1004115496 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Delhi High Court has directed the center to ensure that no toxic waste are imported into the country. Giving the direction, Justice Mr. Anil Dev Singh also directed that the order should be communicated to all authorities concerned immediately. He also asked the government to file an affidavit within a week on the steps taken to ban the import of toxic waste. He observed that the import of hazardous waste is being banned all over the world, but in India its import is not only allowed the foreign suppliers are even paid for it. He was hearing a petition by a private steel firm whose consignment of lead ash has not been released by the customs.

India: Commentary Views Problem of Toxic Waste Disposal

BK1104064296 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 11 Apr 96

[Commentary by N. Suresh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The ongoing debate on how to handle toxic wastes in India has got a new twist yesterday, with the Delhi High Court banning the import of all toxic wastes into the country. Hearing a petition by a private steel company whose consignment of lead ash, suspected to be a toxic waste, was not released by Customs authorities, Justice Anil Dev Singh directed the government to stop import of all toxic wastes. The judgment has boosted the efforts of environmentalists who have been clamoring for such a ban ever since India became a favorite destination for disposal of toxic wastes from developed countries. Because of stringent regulations concerning toxic wastes at home, developed countries have been looking for alternate spots for their disposal. The willingness of India and many other developing countries to import these wastes to recycle them using cheap labor available has threatened to develop into a major environmental disaster.

Apart from import of toxic wastes, disposal of such poisonous substances produced within the country has also generated a major public debate. For instance, disposal of wastes from hospitals has become a major controversy. Recently, the Supreme Court directed all hospitals to set up incinerators to burn wastes produced inside their premises. This started a major debate among scientists and environmentalists about which is the right method of hospital waste disposal. Wastes from hospitals are generally burnt in incinerators. Environmentalists point out that incineration of these wastes produces poisonous gases such as dioxin and furan, as most of these are chlorine-based products. In fact, the international environmental organization Greenpeace has advised India against using incinerators and attempt instead to control production of chlorine-based products.

On the other hand, some environmentalists insist that incineration is the best method used to dispose of hospital and other municipal wastes, because otherwise many of the waste materials such as syringes, blood bags, even unused medicines are picked up and sold to unsuspecting patients. The risks of spreading various infections is greater than the problems created by incineration, they assert. And this can be done efficiently using latest incinerators which burn wastes at higher temperatures and reduce toxic emissions, they pointed out.

No immediate solution to the issue is in sight. But finding a solution has become urgent, because according to latest reports India generates over 85 lakh tons of solid waste every year. So with each passing day our garbage mountains are growing in size and something needs to done immediately before a catastrophe strikes.

Iran

Iran: Joint Naval Exercises Begin in Bandar-e 'Abbas Area of Gulf

LD1104114396 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The joint naval exercises of the First Naval Region and the Air Force, codenamed Fateh [victorious], started this morning at Bandar-e 'Abbas in the blue waters of the Persian Gulf.

According to a Central News Unit report, attack units, naval vessels, and patrol aircraft of the First Naval

Region and the Ninth Hunter Base of the Armed Forces took part in the exercises, which were staged to honor the memory of the martyrs of the small battleship Jowshan and the destroyer Sahand, and to mark Armed Forces week.

On the first day of the war games participating units, enjoying air support, cleared the area covered by the exercises of mines. The units involved in the exercises will continue to take their positions round the clock.

Iran: Velayati on 'Long-Term' Cooperation With Russia, Central Asia

LD1104120696 Tehran IRNA in English
1143 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., April 11, IRNA — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said here Thursday [11 April] that the goals pursued by Iran in Central Asia and the Caucasus were based on peace, cooperation and economic development.

Velayati, who was speaking to a number of students at Razavi Islamic Sciences University, said that countries would benefit from having ties with one another solely through cooperation and mutual confidence.

He said that Iranian officials had proved both in their words and in their deeds that others could trust them.

Immediately after the republics of former Soviet Union gained independence, the enemies of Iran began to make them afraid of the Islamic Republic under pretext of fundamentalism, he said, adding however that those republics have now found out that Iran was for regional countries enjoying a peaceful and calm coexistence and that Tehran had no intention to meddle in their internal affairs.

The foreign minister said that those republics, Russia and Iran could have all-out and long-term cooperation. He added that the ground had been prepared for establishment of such cooperation.

Velayati said that Russia did not consider Iran as its rival in the region, rather it encouraged other countries to expand their ties with the Islamic Republic.

Tehran was trying to revive its historical ties with Central Asian and the Caucasian republics, which had been severed for over 70 years. However, he commented, such objectives would take some time to realize.

He cited the establishment of Tajan-Mashhad-Sarakhs rail track, of shipping lines between Iran and the Caspian Sea littoral states and of air links and cooperation in the areas of banking, oil and telecommunications as the results of the revival of Iran's ties with the Central Asian and Caucasian republics.

Iran: Ties With Russia Based on 'Long-Term Strategy'

LD1104145596 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
0955 GMT 11 Apr 96

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] At a meeting with the Iranian ambassador in Moscow yesterday, Oleg Soskovets, first deputy chairman of the Russian Government, reiterated that, in spite of American pressure to prevent Russian-Iranian cooperation, his country will continue to cooperate with Iran to complete the Bushehr nuclear power station and in other areas.

This is not the first time a top Russian official has stressed that the fruitful cooperation with Iran in the economic and technological fields will continue. In fact, the repetition of that stand by Russian officials is in itself a clear proof of Moscow's decisiveness and determination in the matter which, more than anything else, stem from the mutual benefits in the economic ties between Iran and Russia and Moscow's increasing desire to act independently of American pressure.

Nevertheless, Russia's reiteration of the continuation of industrial and economic cooperation with Iran has gained more importance in the new circumstances. This is because that stand has been taken on the eve of the seven industrialized countries' summit in Moscow about nuclear safety, and is a warning to America that Russia will not allow Washington to take advantage of the summit to bring pressure to bear on Moscow to do what is described as reconsidering its relations with Iran.

Although the White House, like the Kremlin, is well aware of the peaceful nature of the Russian-Iranian nuclear cooperation, which is aimed at the expansion of energy sources and the transfer of its technology and know-how, White House policy is based on equipping its Zionist friends with nuclear weapons and preventing its enemies from obtaining even peaceful technologies. In this equation Israel has obtained 200 nuclear warheads which, in the hands of a hegemonic regime, have become an obvious threat to the region and the world. However, Washington's efforts in the other direction — that is, to -isolate Iran and prevent it from obtaining peaceful nuclear technology — have faced total defeat.

In any case, the relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian Federation, be it in the field of peaceful nuclear technology and the expansion of Bushehr power station, or in other technical and industrial areas, are based on a long-term strategy, which stems from the firm determination of the two nations to establish relations based on mutual trust, respect, and benefit.

Iran: 'Failed' U.S. Efforts To Halt Ties With Russia Viewed

LD1104150796 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 11 Apr 96

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In a meeting with the Islamic Republic of Iran's ambassador to Russia, Mehdi Safari, the Russian first deputy foreign minister [title as heard], Oleg Soskovets, stressed on the continuation of the implementation of the agreement reached between the two countries on inaugurating the nuclear base in Bushehr.

The comments of the Russian official coincides with the meeting of the G-7 heads of state with the Russian officials as host in Moscow conferring on the nuclear security.

The stance of Russia on this issue is a clear indication of the independent foreign policies of the Russian officials in their friendly ties with Iran. Further on, Soskovets calls for extended cooperation between Iran and Russia announcing the readiness of his country to build the Ilyushin-114 planes in Iran.

According to the political experts, the development of the bilateral ties between Iran and Russia has led to the anxiety of the United States, forcing the U.S. officials to try to limit the two countries' ties on various fields as well as curbing the implementation of the nuclear site agreement.

The anxiety of the United States on the expansion of the bilateral ties between Iran and Russia, especially the peaceful nuclear cooperation between the two countries, is not a new issue. Obviously, Iran plays an important role in the foreign policy of Russia and the said country chooses its allies without the intervention of a third country. The further expansion of bilateral ties between the two countries is the result of the leniency of the Iranian and Russian officials and the attainment of agreements to expand the ties between the two on various fields. It is be noted that finding solutions to side issues such as the way of repaying Iran's loans to Russia has paved the way for the expansion of bilateral ties. Overall, the U.S. pitfalls in order to halt the two countries' normal trend of cooperation has failed and the comments of the Russian first deputy prime minister proves it.

Although the pressure of the world arrogance is truly felt on the shoulders of the Russian officials, however, the said country intends to promote its ties with Iran, leaving the oppressors facing defeat.

Iran: Velayati, Turkmen Counterpart Discuss Railway Link

LD1204104096 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The first round of talks by the foreign ministers of Iran and Turkmenistan were held in the holy city of Mashhad [Khorasan Province] this morning. The talks are within the framework of the third session of the joint coordination committee for setting up the inauguration ceremonies of the Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tedzhen railway.

At the talks 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Boris Shikhmuradov discussed the main actions taken regarding the inauguration of the railway and expressed their satisfaction over the progress made and the trend of operations undertaken.

Iran: Iran-Turkey Diplomatic Crisis Viewed; Ankara Warned

NC1104150596 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Turkish 1630 GMT 10 Apr 96

[Unattributed commentary: "The Crisis in the Relations Between Iran and Turkey"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The director of the intelligence department in Western Azerbaijan disclosed on 9 April that several Turkish espionage groups have been exposed in Iran. Speaking at a press conference, the official said the group members were mostly Turkish citizens. He noted that some of them were intelligence officers who worked as diplomats at the Turkish embassy and consulates in Iran. He also noted that they have admitted that they were in charge of the espionage groups.

It is common knowledge that Turkey is an Islamic country and one of Iran's neighbors. As such, Turkey is important to Iran. Relations between the two countries have fluctuated several times during the past 10 years. The propaganda campaigns some of the Turkish media organs have launched against Iran influenced the Turkish officials to adopt an unrealistic approach from time to time. However, the Iranian officials' patient approach prevented a serious crisis between the two sides. In fact, the Iranian and Turkish officials and politicians have signed agreements to make a joint effort to defend their common borders and obstruct the activities of the opposition groups in their territories.

Iran has always remained committed to its agreements with Turkey. That is because Tehran is convinced that a crisis between the countries of the Middle East, including the Persian Gulf, will contribute toward furthering U.S. policies in the region. However, the Turkish officials, yielding to pressure by the United States and Israel, have not avoided certain activities that may create a crisis in Turkey's relations with Iran. The training given to several espionage groups by the Turkish diplomats in Iranian cities is a striking example of Turkey's policies, which conflict with friendship and neighborly relations. In view of that, Iran has asked the Turkish Government to withdraw four of its diplomats.

Iran has indisputable evidence against the Turkish diplomats. This evidence confirms their espionage activities. Tehran will make it public if necessary. However, Turkey has reacted by asking Iran to withdraw four of its diplomats who work at the Iranian embassy, despite the fact that Ankara does not have any incriminating document against them.

All that indicates that a crisis exists between Tehran and Ankara. Undoubtedly, the military agreement that has been concluded between Turkey and Israel, which enables Israeli aircraft to use Turkey's airspace, will worsen the situation between the two countries. The worsening of the crisis and Ankara's decision to reconsider its policies in the region will conflict with Turkey's national and strategic interests. Furthermore, maintaining Ankara's policies will cause a confrontation between Turkey and the Islamic peoples in the region.

Iran: TEHRAN TIMES Scores Turkey's Accord With Israel

NC1104185496 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 7 Apr 96 p 2

[Editorial: "Turkey-Zionist Regime's Accord Threat to Neighboring Countries"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israel and Turkey have signed a military cooperation accord which will allow the Zionist air force to train in the skies of Turkey.

The accord, the first in its kind, will provide the Zionist regime with an access to a considerable chunk of the territory belonging to the Muslim world. It is tantamount to another Zionist encroachment on the Muslim world. In reality it is another dimension of the expansionist policies of the Zionist regime, albeit, facilitated by certain Turkish politicians who are intimidated by the U.S. and Zionist circles.

Although a secular state, Turkey cannot neglect the sentiments of its Muslim masses, who recently voted majority of the Refah Party candidates to the Parliament. Muslims in Turkey will protest against such policies. The accord comes at a time when Bait-ul-Moqaddas is still under the occupation of the Zionist regime.

It is not advisable for the Turkish politicians to alienate themselves from the Muslim world for getting closer to a Zionist regime whose clutches are tainted with the blood of Palestinian and Lebanese Muslims. The accord will deepen the gulf between the masses and the politicians in Turkey. This is what the Zionist regime has been trying for.

Moreover, Turkey is still suffering from the brunt of the Zionist regime's support of certain Kurdish separatist groups in that country. The accord will undoubtedly facilitate Zionist regime's further interference in the internal affairs of Ankara. Closer cooperation between the separatist Kurdish groups and the Zionist regime, in the first instance, will endanger Turkish national security.

The Zionist regime will definitely use the Turkish air space to carry spying-surveillance flights. It will not only endanger Turkish security but it will give room to the Zionist regime's intelligence services to carry spying flights to collect information on the Turkey's neighboring countries.

It should be borne in mind that through the accord Turkey has in fact brought the Zionist regime to our doorsteps. Our officials in charge of our foreign policy should express Iran's strong concern over the accord to the Turkish government at the earliest. They should not waste time in taking steps to adopt suitable measures to thwart the threat posed to our security.

Iran: Commentary Criticizes Turkey's Agreement With Israel

LD1204082896 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ELSAMI in Persian 8 Apr 96 p 16

[Political commentary: "Turkey is Israel's Stomping Ground"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the continuation of the Qods-invader regime's expansionism and the continuation of the compromise process of the Islamic state leaders with that usurper regime, Turkey is allowing Tel Aviv to use its air space and airports for the training of Israeli fighter planes. The Turkish defense minister has given the reason for offering such facilities to the Zionist regime as lack of necessary air space for training flights by those fighter planes!

That decision — which detracts from the aspirations of independence by countries — has been made, while in recent years the dependent and laic regime in Turkey has been expanding its ties with the Qods-usurper regime in various dimensions in order to strengthen its ties with the West and increase its so-called strategic importance and role in the region. The numerous visits to the capitals by senior political and military officials of the two countries — Demirel's recent visit being the last link of the open contacts — are considered the most important and clear indications of those relations. Undoubtedly, the conclusion of such an agreement also is one of the humiliating results of the visit to Tel Aviv by the Turkish president, the consequences of which must be carefully observed.

Ankara and Tel Aviv — which have always shown that they move in line with American guidelines and strategy in the region — have in recent years — and in line with the Islamic states' move to compromise with Israel — stinted nothing and have expanded their ties in various fields, from political to economic, from military to security.

One of the important axes of cooperation between Turkey and the Zionist regime at the moment is fighting the growth of Islamism in the region. In that regard, the Sharm al-Shaykh summit and their active participation in that gathering indicate the further grafting of the two regimes' interests.

Although Turkey's recent decision to put its air space at the disposal of Israeli fighter planes is considered a hasty decision that detracts from the regional and Islamic states' interests, it must not be forgotten that Zionist agents began their infiltration in Turkey by various means many years ago and are gradually extending that infiltration. The increased activity and presence of Israeli investors in southeast Turkey under various pretexts — such as assisting with the economic development of the region — can be given as a clear example of the presence of Israelis in Turkey.

The use of Turkish rivers to meet Zionist needs or the use of Israeli experts and equipment to maintain Turkish border security are other aspects of Israeli influence in Turkey and by extension in the region.

The new Ankara government, by this recent action, while trampling on the sentiments of the Muslim Turkish people, is in reality demonstrating that more that anything else the interests of the West and the Zionists are among its priorities. Undoubtedly, the Turkish people will be asking their officials what is the difference between Turkey standing on the brink of an all-out war with Greece over the small Cardac Island and Israel's recent action? The Ankara government must realize that not only its hasty decision will have adverse consequences for the region, but also will endanger Turkey's territorial integrity; and that in the future it will have to accept further demands by the Zionists. If Turkey has embarked on this act to rationalize its extra-territorial operations in northern Iraq and to get a license from the West then it must certainly pay for the consequences of such decisions on its own. The consequences of any aggressive action in the region by Israelis will be directed at Turkish officials and they are the ones who must respond to the public opinion of the region's Muslim people.

Iran: Foreign Ministry Condemns Israeli Attack in Lebanon

LD1104212496 Tehran IRNA in English
2109 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 12, IRNA — Iran's Foreign Ministry here today condemned Zionist attacks Thursday [11 April] of Beirut and other parts of Lebanon.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Dr. Mahmud Mohammadi said the measure by the Zionist regime was a terrorist act that betrayed the true nature of the Zionist regime.

He addressed himself to certain Arab governments that have thus far condoned such acts by the Zionist regime and said they would do better to condemn the Thursday raids and thereby make it impossible for the Zionist regime to continue its criminal perpetrations.

Iran: Growing Ties With Bosnia Said Sign of Failed U.S. Efforts

LD1104215896 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
2014 GMT 11 Apr 96

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the second item you will hear about Iran's growing ties with Bosnia-Herzegovina. The item analyses another example of the hopeless efforts by White House to isolate Iran.

White House Spokesman Mike McCurry, claiming Iran ignores the interests of the Bosnian people and Iran's objective is to promote belligerence in Europe, called for relations between the Bosnian government and Iran to be severed. Such claims are being raised at a time when Iran's foreign minister is visiting Sarajevo to take part in the special gathering of the member states of the Islamic Contact Group, which is aimed at helping Bosnia, as well as meeting and conferring with Bosnian authorities.

The roots of the statements made by the White House spokesman concerning Iran's intentions in Bosnia must be sought in America's hopeless hostility towards the Islamic Republic of Iran which has now turned into a tedious psychological war, which once in a while results in such posturing. Now, that psychological warfare has apparently turned into an instrument for Clinton and his colleagues within the framework of campaign rivalry with the Republicans to succeed in America's future presidential elections.

Moreover, the Americans are unable to hide their concern and fury over the role of Islamic states in Bosnia, whether during the three-and-a-half-year war or during peacetime and reconstruction, a period when America and its Western allies were only watched Serb atrocities and even in many cases supported the Serbs. A period when the best supporters for the innocent Bosnian nation and government were Islamic states, in particular the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In any case, the Iranian nation and government have always stood side by side the Bosnian nation and government. That is a reality which the Bosnian authorities have also stressed during [Foreign Minister] Velayati's meetings with them this week. They called for the continuation and expansion of ties in the period after the war.

It must not be forgotten that Bosnia is a free and independent state and no power has the right to intervene in that country's internal affairs. Only the Bosnian Government and nation have the right to decide the formulation of their foreign relations, choice of friends, and identification of their foes.

Iran: Tehran Radio on OIC Contact Group Declaration on Bosnia

LD1104152596 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The foreign ministers of the Organization of Islamic Conference, OIC, Contact Group, on Wednesday 10 April, at the conclusion of their session on Bosnia, issued a declaration in Sarajevo, stressing the importance and urgency of international aid for the reconstruction of Bosnia. Political observers believe that the Islamic Contact Group's statement actually indicates the coordination of Islamic countries with the Muslim government of Bosnia within the framework of the Dayton peace accord. But what has added to the significance of the statement is that Islamic countries have called on international circles to continue confiscation of the former Yugoslavia's possessions until the issue of replacement is resolved. In the statement, other UN member countries have been called on to take a similar measure.

This issue, at at time when Western countries are providing grounds for the return of the Serbia-Montenegro Federation to the international scene, is worth pondering. But regardless of the fact that to what extent this clause of the declaration is applicable by Islamic countries, it can act as a pressure leverage against the Serbian government for forcing it to observe its obligations.

Also, international circles can in this way pressurize the Belgrade regime for stopping its suppressive measures against the Muslims of Sanjak and Kosovo. One of the contents of the Contact Group's summit declaration which is also to be considered is that the UN special envoy has been called on to take measures for compensation of the damages inflicted by the Serbs in the suburbs of Sarajevo during the period of the transfer of power from the Serbs to the federation. The OIC has suggested that the budget allotted for reconstruction of regions under the control of the Serbs be used for this means.

In addition to this summit, the Contact Group declared its full support of the Bosnian Government regarding the stance of The Hague against the Federal Republic Government of the former Yugoslavia. This is while the Belgrade Government has not officially recognized the measures of the war crimes tribunal and refrains from cooperation with it. Meanwhile the West, especially Washington and London, make efforts to limit the authority of the Hague tribunal.

According to what has been said, the OIC Contact Group's session on the threshold of the holding of the international conference on reconstruction of Bosnia in Brussels is of special significance since this summit, held in Sarajevo, was actually a show of Islamic countries' support. Therefore the Contact Group countries are expected to be of the countries granting the most financial aid for the reconstruction of Bosnia in the Brussels summit, using their political and financial power for the correct and full implementation of the Dayton peace accord content, especially the content of the declaration they have issued.

Iran: Commerical Liner Purchased From China

LD1104201996 Tehran IRNA in English 1940 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bandar-e Abbas, April 11, IRNA — The first modern multi-purpose commercial liner, purchased from China, joined the shipping fleet of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Bandar-e Abbas on Thursday [11 April] at a special ceremony attended by Commerce Minister, Yahya ol-Eshaq.

The new liner called 'Iran Matin' is 164 meters long, 25.60 meters wide and 10 meters high from draft mark. It has maximum cruising speed of 16.5 knots with displaceable capacity of 22,600 tons.

The gross capacity of the ship is 16,000 and its net capacity 6,600 tons.

The ship has four sets of 25 ton cranes and four storeroom with accessary capacity of 713 containers.

Iran Matin, manufactured in 1996, has been purchased 250 million dollars from China.

The commerce minister said Iran's commerce shipping fleet should be strengthened and rejuvenated given the fact that 80 percent of international trade transports are carried out via shipping lines.

Ol-Eshaq added that the economic council has agreed to purchase of 17 ships placing order for manufacture of 12 more ships in Iran.

The minister said by the end of the next two months three more commercial liners named 'Mobin', 'Makin' and 'Yamin' will be delivered to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He added that purchase of the three ships will add a total of 90,000 tons to the capacity of Iran's shipping fleet.

Iran: Paper Views EU's Stand on 'Terrorism'

NC1104165496 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 2 Apr 96 pp 2, 15

[Editorial: "EU Should Elucidate Its Stand on Terrorism"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A delegation from the European Union (EU) is expected here today to follow up talks between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the union.

The visit is welcomed, but our friends in the EU, in general, and the members of the delegation, in particular, should bear a few points in mind while discussing issues of bilateral concern with Iranian officials.

Probably, international terrorism and human rights, inter alia, will be discussed by the two sides.

As to international terrorism, the members of the delegation should not forget that Iran is the chief victim of terrorism. President Rafsanjani and other Iranian officials have, in an unequivocal tone, condemned terrorism in all its forms.

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, had his right hand paralyzed upon the explosion of a bomb planted by members of the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) in the mosque where he was delivering a lecture.

President Rafsanjani still bears the scars of an MKO attack. The same terrorist organization planted a bomb in the central office of the Islamic Republic Party, assassinating more than seventy high-ranking officials on the spot.

Unfortunate as it is, some of the EU members have long harbored, supported and financed a considerable number of the MKO terrorists. Hence, in fighting against terrorism, the ball is indeed in the EU's court.

We strongly urge the Iranian officials to ask the EU members, while holding bilateral talks, to desist from following the policies of double standard and take a clear stand on terrorism.

If harboring the MKO terrorists by some EU members is not meant to foster terrorism, how can those countries justify their act of granting refuge to some terrorists in their lands? If the EU is sincere in its call for fighting against terrorism, it should extradite all anti-Iran terrorists sheltered by some of its members.

Concerning the issue of human rights, majority of the countries in the world have practically become victims of politicization of the issue of human rights by big powers. Also, most of the world's countries have by now realized that the criteria thus far applied to evaluate observance of human rights have, in most cases, been partially employed. And above all, those touchstones cannot be universal.

Therefore, in the first instance, those criteria should be reconsidered so as to accommodate the socio-cultural values of as many members of the community of nations as possible.

Besides, to pave the way for further congruence and harmony between the Iranian and European nations [as published], the EU delegation should try to understand the values and ideals of the Islamic Republic of Iran instead of bowing to the U.S. pressures and echoing its allegations which accuse Tehran of violating the human rights.

The EU should also bear in mind that yesteryear's ally, the United States, has now become its serious economic competitor. Thus, the U.S. will clutch at every straw to undermine the EU's economic status.

It would be in the interest of the EU to withstand the U.S. bullying and ballyhoo. By following an independent line in foreign policy, the EU will be ebb to promote international peace and cooperation.

Iran: Regional Cooperation Needed To 'Rescue' Area

NC1104165696 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 8 Apr 96 p 2

[Editorial: "Regional Cooperation, Not Oil To Rescue Persian Gulf"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Geopolitcally Iran is a dominant power in the Persian Gulf. Historically it has been a crucial regional player.

In the aftermath of the collapse of the bipolar world order we have witnessed a tendency among different regions of the world to form regional alliances to boost regional cooperation.

We witnessed the formation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), revamping and expansion of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and revitalization of other regional organizations including the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO).

The Persian Gulf region possesses almost all necessary conditions for the formation of a regional alliance. Unfortunately thus far the littoral states have failed to form a working union capable of meeting the challenges of the post-Cold War era.

As President Rafsanjani reiterated in his meeting with the visiting Kuwaiti Minister of Communications, Electricity and Water, Jasim Muhammad al-'Awn, Iran is ready to boost bilateral and multilateral cooperation with all Persian Gulf countries.

Owing to their common religion, cultural values and historical tenets, Iran and the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf are indeed natural allies. Due to these common factors, it is easier for these countries to form a bloc to look after their common interests. Therefore, a groundwork already exists for boosting cooperation in political, economic and cultural fields.

To begin with, probably a free trade agreement can be signed by the Persian Gulf states providing for a free movement of goods produced by regional countries themselves. It will boost domestic production of each littoral state and give incentive to local producers to upgrade the quality of their products, preparing them to meet serious challenges from the industrialized world. We cannot rely on oil indefinitely for it is a nonrenewable resource.

A meaningful cooperation between Iran and the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf can lay the foundations of a broader regional cooperation to include Central and South Asian countries. If we do not begin today, tomorrow will be too late.

Iran: Guards Corps Commander—Hezbollah Must Fight 'Liberalism'

LD1104183796 Tehran IRNA in English 1826 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 11, IRNA — The commander of Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps Major General Mohsen Reza'i, said here today that the fate of the Islamic Revolution (IRGC) would be dependent on the result of the cultural and political war of Hezbollah with liberals in Iran.

The major general pointed out that liberalism was a cancerous tumor that was growing in parts of the country without having ever been seriously grappled with by the authorities.

The commander of IRGC said but for the liberals in Iran, national construction in the country would have been a lot further ahead than it is today.

General Reza'i stated that the velayat-e faqih (supreme religious jurisprudent) and the ulema were the number [one] target of Washington in its fight with the Islamic revolution, and added Islam must be dynamic in order to afford continuing struggle with the enemies of the faith.

Addressing himself to basijis and Hezbollah, he called on them to elect candidates for Iran's legislative assembly who would defend the values of the islamic revolution, the Hezbollah, and the velayati-e faqih.

The commander of IRGC, Major-General Reza'i was addressing a large assembly of sub-commanders of basij bases in Tehran province here Thursday [11 April].

Iran: Yazdi Says Drug Sales 'Politically Motivated'

LD1104191696 Tehran IRNA in English 1733 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 11, IRNA — The head of the judiciary branch, Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, said here Thursday [11 April] that distribution and sale of narcotics by drug pushers as well as addicting people was politically motivated.

Ayatollah Yazdi, who was speaking to the second gathering of the Islamic revolution courts' judges here on Thursday, said that the drug pushers should be regarded as the enemies of the sovereignty of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Iranian offical said that the main duty of the revolutionary courts was safe-guarding the Islamic revolution and the sovereignty of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He called of the anti-narcotics campaign headquarters to adopt a more severe policy in fight against the sinister phenomenon.

He called for execution of drug traffickers, smugglers and pushers, whose motive is based on harming the sovereignty of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Iran: Reader Says Traditional Right Intolerant

LD1104164196 Tehran SALAM in Persian 3 Apr 96 , p 9

["The Traditional Right Cannot Tolerate Competitors" — headline; from the "Readers' Letters" column]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] During the last two months, the election issue has been a heated topic of debate which is reaching a climax these days. The debate has been testing the patience and tolerance of the traditional right brothers.

It is necessary to review a summary of the attitude of these dear ones in the past. Right from the early days of the revolution, these dear ones could not tolerate competitors and tried to get rid of anyone who did not think like them. They created obstacles for the government of Mr. Musavi. With their opposition, they created a lot of problems for Mr Musavi and the esteemed Imam. [passage omitted]

Today, the traditional right is so angry that it has threatened the government. One of the leaders of this faction has said that if Hashemi Rafsanjani supports the group of 16, then we will ask the Majlis to debate his suitability for the post of presidency.

By such maneuvers, these gentlemen have in fact proved that their invitation to other factions to take part in elections was just a political ploy.

In conclusion, I would like to urge these gentlemen to have more tolerance, listen to what another says, and respect people's freedom. I also call on them not to ruin themselves, or others for that matter, for the sake of attaining power.

I beseech the Almighty not to forsake us even for one single moment.

[Signed] Ja'far Akbari, Tehran

Iran: Paper Criticizes 'Political Eligibility' Criterion

LD1104121896 Tehran 'ASR-E MA in Persian 4 Apr 96 p 7

["Political Eligibility"—'Asr-E MA headline]

[FBIS Translated Text] In any election, a number of problems in the Elections Act become apparent and the authorities take steps to correct them.

The elections for the fifth term of the Majles also led to some clerical members of the Guardian Council proposing amendments to the Act. Before the new year, Ayatollah Jannati proposed that in order to cut the number of candidates for the Majles, each should be charged a registration fee, so that if they do not receive enough votes to be elected, that sum should go to the government. At last week's Friday prayers, Ayatollah Emami-Kashani complained that the time the Guardian Council has allotted to review the eligibility of the candidates is too short. He proposed that registration should take place six months before the elections to give sufficient time to determine eligibility. He also recommended to the fourth Majles to do the right thing and reform the Elections Act, include political eligibility as a condition for candidates, and name the Guardian Council as the determining authority.

That the current Elections Act has shortcomings and should be amended is acknowledged by all and sundry. However, the direction the amendments should take is very important.

Mr. Jannati's proposal is similar to mechanisms adopted by capitalist systems in the early days of their electoral system. For example, in the past, America imposed a minimum income and a deposit for parliamentary candidacy. Later, due to the efforts of democratic circles, that condition was removed. Now it is looked on as a black mark on America's electoral system, because it clearly establishes the power of capitalists in the political system and prevents the participation of low-income classes.

Also, Mr Emami's proposal, which contains the elastic term "political eligibility" in the conditions for candidacy, completes the Guardian Council's vetting procedure. It means that, instead of grave allegations such as lacking practical adherence to Islam and the supreme jurisconsult, candidates can be found lacking "political eligibility."

Some Guardian Council members consider the council as the guardian and gatekeeper of the Majles and persistently think up obstacle after obstacle to entering the Majles. They should note that it fundamentally opposes the republican system and the principle of candidates being elected by the people. If we believe in the parliamentary system, we must accept its complementary part, that is, the political party system. And instead of making problem- creating proposals, we should accept the political party system. Only through such a system can people suitable to the Majles be picked from the masses of applicants, political eligibility can become apparent through various organizational sieves, and there would no longer be a need for vetting and political eligibility and deposits.

Iran: Editorial Views Guardian Council's Elections Rulings

LD1104155596 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 6 Apr 96 pp 1, 16

[Bijan Moqaddam editorial: "The 'rulings' of the 'supervisor'!"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] From the midst of the opinions expressed about the few constituencies whose election results have been annulled by the Guardian Council, one can deduce that some people believe that the annulment of votes cast — regardless of the way they have been obtained — is a wrong and undesirable deed. They, moreover, believe that when elections end, one must close one's eyes and ears and approve the results.

Fortunately, besides the laws, the Guardian Council, in its process of evaluating the results, was also able to benefit from the serious remarks by the eminent leader [Khamene'i] regarding individuals who, by resorting to various immoral methods and spending huge amounts of money, had sought "to purchase votes" and attract people's attention.

On the other hand, due to the clarity of the Constitution's articles on the supervisory role of the Guardian Council over the election and the council's authority to decide its correctness, no one has been able to deny the council's right.

However, some circles speak or write in a way that can be interpreted both as a denial of the lawful supervisory right of the Guardian Council and also as an insult against the council. (1) [Footnote 1:] (A glance at the "With Little Explanation" column of the IRAN daily on 4 April would suffice. This esteemed government newspaper, which mobilized all its means in support of a particular faction during the elections, today wants to tell people that by annulling election results, the Guardian Council wants to "factionalize" the elections.)

If the Guardian Council, as the lawful body in charge of supervision over elections, decides to annull the results in a given constituency, such as Esfahan, on the basis of some information, documents, or evidence that it has at its disposal, then is it right and proper for the Esfahan governor general — who is the representative of the executive power in the province — to challenge the Guardian Council? And is it right that he should say that people who provided the council with the evidence and information are unreliable and flawed individuals, and even go on to say that the members of the supervision body of the Guardian Council are extremist individuals who support a specific political line or faction?

Does the law allow the expression of such views at all? If not, then why does the governor general — both in the capacity of supervisor and also the executive organ's representative — rule that the elections were completely healthy and their "annulment was not expedient," and then call on the Guardian Council to revise its decision?

When the esteemed governor general, who is supposed to be more aware of, and loyal to, the law than others, fearlessly challenges the Guardian Council and tells it what to do, what can one expect from others? It is possible that persistence on these positions and provoking public opinion and sentiments may lead to harmful consequences, for which these gentlemen would undoubtedly be responsible.

Given this, is it in the interests of the people and system that this school of thought should continue to dominate the political management of Esfahan Province? [passage omitted]

[Tehran IRAN in Persian on 4 April on page 3 carries the following satirical piece, as referred to above, paragraph four:

["Person A: I heard you won the first round.

["Person B: I did, but now I have failed!

["A: How come?

["B: Due to a shortage of time, the mark they gave me was 20 [out of 20], but later on, they had time to revise the papers, and now I owe them a few marks.

["A: What was your problem then?

["B: Perhaps I studied too much, or maybe my handwriting [Khatt — also the word for line or camp] was bad. How do I know?

["A: Why don't you ask what the problem was?

["B: I cannot ask all the people. Perhaps questions have already been asked and we are therefore not now allowed to ask any more."]

Iran: Official Discusses Reasons for Annulling Esfahan Elections

LD1104214496 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 7 Apr 96 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Guardian Council Announces Reasons for Annulment of Esfahan Elections"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Esfahan, Central News Unit — In an exclusive interview with the Central News Unit, Mr. 'Alizadeh, one of the lawyer members of the Guardian Council, explained the reasons for the annulment of the [Majles] election results in Esfahan. [passage omitted]

According to a Central News Unit report, the lawyer member of the Guardian Council explained the cases of violations of the election rules and regulations which led to the annulment of the elections in Esfahan, and said: There are many cases of such violations, and I only refer to some of them. Apart from the reports which we have received from the supervisors of the Guardian Council, information from other sources, and complaints received by the Guardian Council, these violations have also been confirmed by the council's special investigator. This is what made us cancel the results of the elections in Esfahan.

'Alizadeh explained the cases of violations and said: Some candidates have made great promises to the people. Some of these promises are so great and important that even all of the country's executive organs together cannot implement them, let alone a deputy or a candidate. Among such promises are the building of a metro, a divided highway between Esfahan and Tehran, building electric trains to connect Esfahan, Tehran, and Mashhad and so on; which show that the person giving such promises cannot stand by what he is saying. Therefore, these promises are not real and are nothing but a means of deceiving the people. They show that the person making such promises goes to any extent to gain more votes.

He added: Some candidates from Esfahan began campaigning before the permitted period and spent extravagant amounts on their election campaign. [passage omitted]

Iran: Khamene'i Emphasizes Cultural Mission of TV, Radio

LD1104160296 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the honorable leader of the Islamic revolution, received the head, deputies, and managers of the various networks of the Voice and Vision [radio and television] today and praised their efforts toward implementing the organization's mission.

The eminent leader described the cultural mission of the Voice and Vision as the nation's mission and a very great responsibility. He emphasized that the officials of the Voice and Vision have endeavored and continue to endeavor in many fields, particularly in the production of programs on Islamic and revolutionary anniversaries and the elections, and we should indeed thank them for such efforts.

The eminent leader referred to a number of the well-produced, interesting, clever, and intelligent radio and television programs and added: The Voice and Vision are broadcasting some good and very good programs. Of course, there are also some programs with certain faults in them; but we can see a process at work which aims to remove such weaknesses and faults. This process should continue, and efforts to reach much higher levels should be considered carefully.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i said: Priority should be given to radio reception in all parts of the country. He said: We still have certain areas which cannot receive radio programs. He added: That problem should be solved.

His eminence the leader referred to the need for the various programs of the Voice and Vision, particularly radio plays, films, and serials, to have peaceful effects; and that any issue which could disturb, or create sadness or mental stress should be avoided in programs. Plans should be made to achieve such an aim. [passage omitted]

Mr. 'Ali Larijani, head of the Voice and Vision, said: The fourth television network begins the formal broadcast of its programs today. [passage omitted]

Nepal & Bhutan

Nepal: Editorial Sees 'Bright' Prospects for PRC Ties

BK1204023596 Kathmandu THE KATHMANDU POST in English 11 Apr 96

[Editorial: "No Irritants in Ties" — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ever since the establishment of formal diplomatic relation between Nepal and People's Republic of China, the relationship between the two countries has been marked by an uninterrupted good neighbourliness and cooperation. Despite differences in ideology and the system of government, Nepal and China share common perceptions on a number of issues in the international fora. The five principles of peaceful coexistence have remained one of the basic tenets guiding the foreign policy of both the countries. However, the best part of bilateral relations has been China's understanding of Nepal's development problems and sensitivity, and the cooperation extended by China to address the disadvantages without giving precedence to ideological factors in bilateral relations.

As Nepal and China are engaged in the crusade of economic development, the need for a good relationship has become even more urgent in the present context. Nepal has been struggling hard to improve the economic status of the people after the restoration of democracy since last six years. Similarly, China is also engaged in reforming its economy and further opening itself to outside world. Today, China has proven itself as the economic titan of Asia. In this context, the possibility of further cooperation between the two countries in the field of economy has become all the more real. The preparations being made by the two countries for setting up a China- Nepal Non-Governmental Cooperation Forum with a view to promote mutual cooperation through non-government channels deserves full support as it will go a long way in fostering the existing bondage.

Geographically located between India and China, it is Nepal's compulsion to maintain a balanced foreign policy with her immediate neighbours and remain non-aligned. However, the nation in its stage of low economic growth, nascent democracy, and lack of sufficient infrastructures for development cannot afford to take sides. Siding either towards North or South, developed or undeveloped will definitely reduce the international support for us. This is a reality that Nepal must never overlook. But with the change of governments, the policy of strict non-alignment has undergone certain shifts at certain times. Some have solicited excessively for human rights and therefore are inclined towards democratic countries of the West, whereas the others have stressed on equality and social justice and sided with socialist nations. Therefore, giving more emphasis on one side could jeopardize the heightening relationships with our neighbours.

The only sensitive spot for China in her ties with Nepal is Tibet. Fortunately, however, there is no disagreement between the two governments on this issue. Nepal has explicitly recognised Tibet as an integral part of People's Republic of China. Moreover, Nepal's reiteration of its firm stand on not allowing its soil for any activities against neighbour countries and the Chinese Ambassador's statement the other day that there is no outstanding issue or conflict of interest in Sino-Nepal ties is a clear indication that the future of Nepal-China ties is bright.

Pakistan

Pakistan: Asif Expresses Readiness for Kashmir Talks With India

BK1104113696 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Senate was informed this morning that Pakistan was ready for a dialogue with India on the basis of eight nonpapers exchanged by the two countries and subject to New Delhi bringing some relief in the occupied Kashmir.

Replying to a question by Qazi Hussain Ahmad, the foreign minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, said Kashmir dispute is to be main agenda of Pak-India talks. The foreign minister said India has a contradictory policy on the Kashmir issue. On one hand it terms Kashmir as its integral part and does not want any discussion on its status while on the other, it says that Kashmir issue is a bilateral dispute between the two countries and it should be resolved in the framework of Simla agreement.

Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali said Pakistan is even ready to discuss Kashmir issue under Simla agreement in which both countries are bound to find a peaceful negotiated settlement of the problem. The foreign minister said UN resolutions on Kashmir are absolutely binding and enforceable under relevant articles of the UN charter. The foreign minister said there is no question of any behind-the-scene dialogue, secret meetings, or talks between Pakistan and India on the Kashmir issue. He said there is no official involvement or participation in the meeting of any forum that is established in the context of Pak-India relations. He said Pakistan neither encourages nor discourages private dialogue between people of two countries which is part of new trend in the world to discuss conflicting issues on nongovernmental forums to debate their possible solution. He said the popular will demands that the participation of these informal talks call on the Indian Government to accord the right of self-determination to the people of Kashmir before any substantive or wider interaction can be promoted between Pakistan and India.

Earlier, members of the opposition staged a token walk out over interpretation of UN resolutions on Kashmir.

Pakistan: Indian Bid To Deploy More Troops in Kashmir Decried

BK1104153596 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistan has expressed concern over reports that India plans to deploy additional 50,000 troops in occupied Kashmir.

A Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad told newsmen at the weekly briefing that this will only lead to an increase in tension along the Line of Control. Apparently, the troops have been sent to conduct so-called elections already rejected by All Parties Hurriyat Conference, who are the true representatives. The move will further add to an already precarious condition and increase the level of Indian repression.

[Begin spokesman recording] The government of Pakistan reiterates that the Indian Government's tactics of forcing the Kashmiris into submission through brute force will vitiate the atmosphere, thus impeding the search for an amicable solution to the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. [end recording]

Pakistan: Bhutto Sends Condolences to Widow of Kashmir Activist

BK1204005596 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said that because of the sacrifice of noted human rights champion Jalil Andrabi by being martyred at the hands of Indian troops, the dark night of cruelty will come to an end soon.

In a condolence message to the widow of the departed soul, Mrs. Zirfat, the prime minister paid a splendid tribute to the late Andrabi for sacrificing his life for a noble cause. The prime minister said the foremost aim of the struggle put up by the departed soul was to grant the inalienable right of self- determination to, the Kashmiri people. She said the assassination of Andrabi, which was condemned all over the world, has again exposed the truth that Indian security forces have let loose a reign of terror in occupied Kashmir.

Pakistan: Editorial Condemns India's Threats Over Kashmir Elections

BK1104110096 Rawalpindi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 10 Apr 96 p 4

[Editorial: "Elections in Occupied Kashmir — Indian Army Chief's Threat"]

[FBIS Translated Text] India has threatened that harsh action will be taken against Pakistan should it try to sabotage next month's elections, which are scheduled to be held in Kashmir. The Indian Army chief has said that Indian troops will foil every attempt made by the aggressor neighboring country to influence the voting process.

India has created a condition in Indian-held Kashmir where its brutal forces carry out torture and murder of helpless and oppressed people, holding an election in Kashmir in this atmosphere is impossible. The people of Kashmir have openly declared that they will not participate in any election that is held under the auspices of the Indian Government. In the past, an attempt was made to hold similar sham elections, but a strong reaction against the Indian Government forced it to change its decision. Now India has once again announced elections in Kashmir in order to deceive the international community, but the organizations of India-occupied Kashmir have opposed the decision, making the elections impossible. In this situation the Indian Army chief's threat that "if Pakistan tries to sabotage the elections in Kashmir it will be dealt with very harshly" is similar to fighting with the wind. When the people of Kashmir themselves are strongly opposed to the elections, the allegation that Pakistan is trying to influence the voting is an insane idea. India should realize that all the Kashmiri organizations have declared they will boycott the elections. The more India delays in granting the Kashmiris their actual right — the right of self-determination — the worse the situation will be. India will never be able to hold an elections in occupied Kashmir.

Pakistan: Azerbaijani President Said To Support Kashmir Policy

BK1104150596 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 11 Apr 96 p 6

[Editorial: "A Diplomatic Plus"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Azerbaijan President Heydar Aliyev's support for Islamabad's stance on Kashmir represents a diplomatic plus for Pakistan. Lady Thatcher, a former prime minister of Britain, during a recent visit here too had voiced similar views on the essential rationally of the plebiscite demand. The Kashmir dispute has lately shot into international focus primarily because of the massive human rights abuses committed by the Indian security forces. The troop deployment there represents the highest concentration of military personnel anywhere in the world in peace time since World War II. The crackdown has grown in intensity and ruthlessness since the uprising began in 1989. Some exceptionally heinous instances of this brutality have sent shock waves across the globe, as such incident cannot be kept concealed from the outside world in this age of split second communication. The rocketing of an AJK [Azad Jammu Kashmir] mosque and the recent slaughter of Kashmiris housed in a complex near Hazartabal demonstrate the extent to which New Delhi is prepared to go in defiance of the principles governing-state behavior. And the growing international backing to the Kashmiris' cause — both tacit and explicit — symbolizes worldwide revulsion over the heavy-handed Indian methods.

A brief look at the Indian track record would be sufficient to expose New Delhi's lack of good faith. Practically all the rounds of talks New Delhi has held with Islamabad have merely been diversionary in nature, intended primarily to buy time and project a concillatory stance. The polls gimmick too is designed to sidetrack the core issue of plebiscite — a right guaranteed to the Kashmiris under the Security Council resolution. That is why all mainstream political outfits, including the pro-Congress (I) National Conference of Dr. Farooq Abdullah, have refused to participate in the election. As if this were not sufficient not sufficient to expose the electoral face the Rao government has gone a step further and promised bullet-proof cars to candidates daring enough to tread the campaign trail! Clearly, the elections are being foisted on the valley as a substitute for the UN-mandated plebiscite, which can never be an acceptable mechanism. Islamabad's principled position on the issue is too well known to warrant a repetition. UN Secretary-General Butrus-Butrus Ghali has already termed the Kashmir issue "the oldest unresolved dispute still on the UN agenda." It is a moral and legal obligation of the international community to see to it that the Security Council resolution on Kashmir is implemented in letter and spirit. Meanwhile, Islamabad has gained yet another adherent to the Kashmiris's cause in President Heydar Aliyev of Azerbaijan, which amounts to a notable diplomatic achievement.

Pakistan: Agreements Signed With Azerbaijan; Aliyev Departs

BK1104125596 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The president of Azerbaijan, Mr. Heydar Aliyev, has reiterated his country's stand on Kashmir and said it is irreversible.

Talking to newsmen before his departure for Baku in Lahore this afternoon, he said Azerbaijan will continue to extend its support to the people of Kashmir who are struggling for their right of self determination. He also condemned atrocities and brutalities perpetrated by the Indian forces in occupied Kashmir. Mr. Heydar Aliyev said during his stay in Pakistan, he had fruitful negotiations with President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. He said we have signed nine agreements which will lay down sound foundation for enhancing economic relations between the two countries.

Pakistan: Editorial Views Russian, Indian Talks on Afghanistan

BK1104111696 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 11 Apr 96 p 6

[Editorial: "The Medusa Factor in Afghan Peace"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The visiting Russian foreign minister held detailed discussions with Indian external affairs minister Pranab Mukherjee. Both sides are understood to have forged a strategic partnership to help stabilise Afghanistan. According to Mukherjee, India and Russia agreed that the territorial integrity of Afghanistan should be maintained, there should be no third party intervention and UN peace initiative should be given a chance. Nobody can disagree that these are very noble and desirable objectives. His very next sentence, however, annuled this impression. Mukherjee revealed that both sides agreed that "the Pakistan backed Taleban militia should not be allowed to take an upper hand in Afghanistan."

Pakistan has repeatedly said that it does not have any favorites in Afghanistan. It cannot afford to have favourites in a complex, volatile and paradoxical situation. If the principled stand of Pakistan that Rabbani should honour the Islamabad Accord is also shared by most of the warring factions of Afghanistan including Taleban, it is no fault of Pakistan. In fact Pakistan lent an undue favour to Kabul by rigidly maintaining its neutrality and refraining from exercising its moral obligation of actively supporting implementation of the Islamabad Accord. In any case none has accused Pakistan of supply arms to Taleban. As against this, both India and Russia have been militarily and logistically supporting the Kabul regime. The Russian air craft forced down by Taleban in Kandhar was carrying Indian arms and munitions.

Contrary to their official postures, both Russia and India do not want stability in Afghanistan. Russians know that peace in Afghanistan will have tremendous impact on the trade and economies of Central Asian Republics (CARs). Afghanistan is the natural and the most economical gateway to the land locked CARs. Opening up of this route will lessen the economic dependence of CARs on Russia. It cannot reconcile with the painful reality that the economic wealth of CARs which only recently belonged to Russia will find new horizons and bring prosperity to the young republics. For the same reasons, Russia wouldn't want Afghanistan off the hook.

During Russian occupation, everything went to Moscow from the CARs and later from Afghanistan in exchange for peanuts. Russia cannot occupy Afghanistan, but it has opted to strive to maintain its hold through surrogates in Kabul.

Peace in Afghanistan is also detrimental to Indian interests for more or less similar reasons. India cannot bear the thought of Pakistan prospering through trade with CARs. Afghanistan thus has to be kept on the boil. It was only natural for India and Russia to join hands to implement their agenda. Interestingly, Indians were the closest Soviet allies when the latter invaded Afghanistan. Why can't both join hands in the economic strangulation of their former victim?

Despite all their shortcomings, rivalries and myopia, all Afghans share a deep rooted characteristic. They cannot tolerate foreign intervention. Indians know it and Russians learnt it the hard way. Both are now trying the time tested imperialistic technique of divide and rule. Supporting the groups in power and opposing others, India and Russia hope to keep the fires roaring in Afghanistan to their mutual advantage. The sooner the Afghans can see through this friendship ploy of Machiavellian origin, the better for peace and prosperity in the region.

Pakistan: Jafari Front Leader Condemns Israeli Air Raid on Lebanon

LD1204062596 Tehran IRNA in English 0601 GMT 12 Apr 96

["Naqvi Condemns Zionist Air Raids on Lebanon"—IRNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Damascus, April 12, IRNA — Secretary General of Pakistani Jafari Front Allama Sajid Naqvi said here Thursday [11 April] that brutal air attacks by Zionist regime on Lebanon on Thursday proved baselessness of the U.S. claims about peace.

Talking to IRNA here Thursday, Naqvi said that the big satan and the Zionists broadcast the slogan of peace from their propaganda machine to deceive poeple.

Naqvi said that the Zionist regime had severly threatened security of the whole region.

He added that all international communities and human rights associations should condemn Zionists' attacks on the defenseless Lebanese people.

Naqvi said that the Zionist criminals should be punished by the legal international communities.

He added that Palestinian and Lebanese strugglers were solely defending their home and dignity against aggression.

Pakistan: Foreign Minister Says 'No Move' To Recognize Israel

BK1204051896 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0300 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The foreign minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, has said there is no move to recognize Israel. He was responding to a question to this effect raised in the Senate yesterday. He said Pakistan wants a comprehensive settlement of the Middle East dispute, and the question of recognition would be considered with other OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference] countries after completion of the process. He said Pakistan wanted implementation of all UN resolutions, including those relating to the status of Baitul Muqaddas and the occupied Jerusalem.

Replying to a question by Chaudhry Mohammad Anwar Dildar, the foreign minister said military equipment under the Brown Amendment would be delivered to Pakistan after completion of the ongoing Pak-U.S. talks on the issue.

Pakistan: Foreign Office Spokesman Comments on Afghan Issues

BK1204044896 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0300 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistan supports the ongoing efforts of UN special mission for urgent transfer of power and formation of a fully representative, broad-based, authoritative council in Afghanistan. This was stated by a Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad yesterday. Briefing newsmen, the spokesman referred to the Security Council's recent debate on Afghanistan and said that the UN General Assembly had unanimously called for attainment of these objectives. It has renewed its call for resumption of a genuine intra-Afghan dialogue to address issues relating to establishment of a durable peace and stability in Afghanistan.

Replying to a question about Pakistan delegation's visit to Kandahar, the spokesman categorically said no Pakistani delegation visited Kandahar during the ulema [religious scholars] gathering of Taleban and no arms were supplied to the faction.

Answering another question, the spokesman said Pakistan has already received an apology on the destruction of its mission in Kabul.

Commenting on a press report, the spokesman said Pakistan had neither intended nor was interested that one or the other faction be heard by the Security Council. Pakistan in no way was involved with General Dostam's visit to the United States nor his presence in New York at the time of the Security Council debate.

Pakistan: Editorial Backs U.S. Proposal for Afghan Arms Embargo

BK1204055296 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 12 Apr 96 p 6

[Editorial: "A Sound Proposal"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Washington has voiced tentative support to the idea of an arms embargo on Afghanistan as a mechanism for bringing peace to the war-torn country. Ambassador Edward Gnehm, during a debate at the Security Council, also suggested convening of a special conference on the peace process in Afghanistan. The move coincides with Islamabad's call for a broad-based set-up in Afghanistan, with an adequate representation to all the mainstream parties involved in the conflict. These developments have come in the backdrop of Senator Hank Brown's recent tour of Afghanistan during which he had undertaken comprehensive talks with prominent players on the Afghan scene. Mr Brown's trip has been billed as a ground-preparing exercise for a visit later this month by Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia Robin Raphel. Incidentally, Ms Raphel also holds the portfolio of Afghanistan at the State Department. The visits by this two top-ranking US diplomats coupled with Ambassador Gnehm's proposal for an arms embargo, constitute an important element in the mosaic of latest peace moves for the war-devastated country.

Kabul's cool response to the arms embargo proposal is based on the premise that the porousness of borders will continue to allow a free flow of weaponry despite the ban. Therefore, an arms embargo, devoid of other UN peace measures, cannot prove effective. The objection, which appears to be structured on sound reasoning, should therefore be taken into account while drawing up a disengagement strategy for the country. The shuttle diplomacy of special UN envoy Mahmoud Mestiri and various OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference] peace initiatives have all failed so far to effect a thaw. The Taleban Shoora [council] has already rejected the UN-proposed interim council as a transitional mechanism because of a perceived "pro-Rabbani tilt" in it. The Zaher Shah [former king] option too has evoked a mixed response. In fact the idea appears to have heightened polarisation in Afghan circles. The main cause of the current deadlock has been the refusal by President Rabbani to step down in the light of the Islamabad Accords following the expiry of his term of office in June last year. And the ensuing power struggle in the country provided the regional players a leverage to play one faction against the other to wrest the largest share in the Afghan pie. New Delhi has avidly seized this opportunity to drive a wedge between Kabul and Islamabad and has thus blocked the latter's access to the lucrative Central Asian markets. In these circumstances an arms embargo, in conjunction with concerted UN peace efforts, can help de-escalate hostilities in Afghanistan. The proposal needs to be given an experimental try.

Pakistan: Role of U.S. Media in Ring Magnet Controversy Questioned

BK1204060896 Islamabad THE NATION in English 12 Apr 96 pp 1, 13

[Report by Fahd Husain]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — Between February 5 and April 3 this year, 86 reports have appeared in six American newspapers maligning Pakistan on the ring magnets issue. A majority of these reports are widely accepted as being leaks and plants on willing journalists by American spooks and others with an axe to grind.

"This is clear proof of how American journalists belonging to supposedly prestigious publications are willingly used by intelligence agencies," says a source.

The six newspapers which have carried these stories are: WASHINGTON TIMES (15 stories), WASHINGTON POST (13), WALL STREET JOURNAL (9), NEW YORK TIMES (7), BALTIMORE SUN (5) and CHICAGO TRIBUNE (5), bringing the grand total to a whopping 86 stories in two months [all figures as published].

"The American media is highly over-rated," remarks an analyst. "The best of papers are no better than third rate rags when it comes to foreign policy," he says. He argues that the CIA and the State Department have many journalists on their payrolls and it is these journalists who do these agencies' dirty work in the media.

These arguments are substantiated by the anti-Pakistan stories in the last two months. For example, of the 15 stories appearing in the WASHINGTON TIMES, 13 are authored by the same person by the name of Bill Gertz. Similarly, of the 13 stories in the WASHINGTON POST, 10 carry the same by-line, one R. Jeffrey Smith. All these reports deal with the ring magnets issue and the alleged transfer of nuclear technology from China to Pakistan.

And more often than not, the stories are synchronised, thereby suggesting that they are being fed to these two journalists from identical sources. For example THE WASHINGTON TIMES of February 5, 1996 carries a story by Gertz titled "China's nuclear transfer exposed". Two days later on February 7, THE WASHINGTON

POST publishes a story by Jeffrey Smith headlined "China aids Pakistan's nuclear programme". The very next day on February 8, Bill Gertz again publishes a report in THE WASHINGTON TIMES titled "State Department mull waiver for Beijing to avoid sanctions" while the same day Jeffrey Smith also publishes in THE WASHINGTON POST with the title "US may waive sanctions on China for sale related to nuclear arms". Jeffrey Smith again has a story on April 1 with the headline "US Aides see Troubling Trend in China-Pakistan Nuclear Ties" while two days later on April 3, Bill Gertz publishes a report "China aids Pakistani Plutonium plant". The list goes on.

Most of the stories by these two lack concrete proofs or evidences. They are mostly based on quotes by unnamed officials. Whole theses are built on heresay, on dubious intelligence reports and these are heavily laced with conjectures and deliberate slants.

"American media is perhaps the most manipulated media in the world," says a senior Pakistani journalist. He states that most of the newspaper establishments are wired on to official agencies and there exists a shady connection between the two based on a "you scratch my back I'll scratch yours" equation. "The whole issue of ring magnets has been media-created with a very clear objective which is to sabotage the delivery of weapons to Pakistan," he argues. With the way things are going, more is in store from wired journalists with shady agendas. So much for the "prestigious" American media and its "professional" journalists.

Pakistan: Editorial Views Brown Amendment

BK1104103896 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 11 Apr 96 p 7

[Editorial: "Timely Assurances"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Senior Hank Brown's press briefing has removed many misgivings about the Brown Amendment and its implementation. He has said that the Amendment is not going to be reversed. This is believable: it comes from somebody who has been part of the effort to pass the Brown Amendment, and one who knows how the circuitous American legislative system works.

From Pakistan's point of view this is a timely assurance. The delay in the delivery of the $368 million worth of Pakistan's paid- for military equipment, whose release the Brown Amendment has facilitated has led all sorts of rumours to fly. This has vitiated the environment needed for restoring faith and trust between Pakistan and the U.S. After Senator Brown's plain talk and THE NEWS report that the U.S. will refund around $280 million to Pakistan in addition to the military equipment, the picture is clearer. Rumour mongering should end now.

Senator Brown has also clarified ambiguities about the delivery of the 28 F-16 planes that Pakistan had paid for, like the rest of the military purchases, but whose delivery was banned under Pressler sanctions. The question being asked in Pakistan is: why are the planes not a part of the Brown Amendment? Senator Brown's answer is that the Brown Amendment could not have been passed in Congress had it contained a clause pertaining to the delivery of the F-16s. He also says that Pakistan will get its money back once the aircraft has been sold to a third country, and that if there is a shortfall, the U.S. Government will make up for it.

This sounds plausible. The U.S. Administration and its secret agencies are averse to Pakistan getting back the F-16s. In one of his letters to Senator Brown, Assistant Secretary of Defence Joseph S. Nyle, Jr has admitted that President Bill Clinton decided to sell the aircraft because "relearning them at this time would provoke controversy in the region." The Americans also believe that the aircraft will enhance Pakistan's nuclear delivery system.

It is for this reason that various U.S. officials have been telling Pakistan that it will only get the F-16s if it abandons its nuclear option. The other course is to file a law suit in U.S. courts. A barter trade between the F-16s and the nuclear programme was couched in a 1994 U.S. proposal, under this a one-time waiver, of all the Pressler sanctions was offered, provided Pakistan agreed to a verifiable inspection of its nuclear installations. This proposal was rejected. The then Chief of Army Staff General Waheed Kakar during his visit to the U.S. made it clear that Pakistan did not want these "wretched planes" if the price of getting them was compromise on the nuclear programme. Under the circumstances the most noncontroversial way out of the F-16 imbroglio is their sale to a third party with the proceeds coming to Pakistan.

Pakistan: French Navy Officer Discusses Submarines Made for Islamabad

BK1104103096 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 11 Apr 96 pp 1,11

[PPI report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi, April 10 — Rear Admiral Alain Bereau, commander of the French Naval forces in the Indian Ocean has said that the three fully modernized and updated version of the Agosta submarines acquired from France will be delivered to Pakistan Navy on schedule over the next few years.

In an interview with PPI special correspondent on board the French Naval logistics support vessel's 'Somme' at Keamari Port, Karachi Wednesday he said that the first of the three Agosta 90-B submarine would be completely manufactured in French Naval dockyard, the second one partially in France and Pakistan while the third one will be completely manufactured in Pakistan.

Admiral Bereau who arrived in Karachis last Thursday [4 April] on a eight- day routine operational visit to Pakistan said the three submarines will be fitted with the most modern fire control system, latest type of sonar and modern long range torpedoes with the capacity of firing with SM-39 submarine launched anti-ship missile. The latter system equivalent to the American made sub-harpoon system currently in service with the Pakistan Navy, has been offered by France to Pakistan as a part of the French designed Agosta 90-B weapon system.

In addition, the Pakistani Agosta 90-B submarines will be equipped with the newly-developed air independent propulsion (AIP) system Mesma, combining the advantages of AIP performance and maximal in use safety.

Admiral Bereau said the agreement for the supply of three Agosta 90-B submarines also includes an extensive element of progressive transfer of technology, which will enable Pakistan Navy to assemble and manufacture submarines within the country. In addition, it will ensure long-term logistic support and supply of spares, updating of equipment and machinery throughout the life span of submarine Agosta 90-B.

He explained that the requirement for the three new submarines Agosta was meant to replace the ageing Dephne submarines in the fleet of the Pakistan Navy. He recalled that the navies of Pakistan and France had a long history of cooperation starting with the acquisition of the Dephne submarines about 25 years ago.

He disclosed that navies of Pakistan and France will hold a small exercise in the Arabian Sea in a couple of days. He described his meetings with senior officers of Pakistan Navy in Islamabad and Karachi as 'highly constructive and useful. Pakistan understands fully the tactical presence of the French Navy in the Indian Ocean where it normally has seven to 10 naval ships", he added.

He said that relations between the navies of Pakistan and France were 'exemplary'. He disclosed that the chief of Pakistan Navy Admiral Mansurul Haq will visit France from Friday where he will be the chief guest at the acceptance and commissioning ceremony of PNS Mohafiz the second of the three minehunters acquired by Pakistan Navy from France. The Mohafiz will thereafter proceed to Belgium for a work-up prior to sailing for Karachi by the middle of this year.

Meanwhile, informed sources told PPI here that technical details for the purchase of about 13 French Mirage 2000-5 aircraft for the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) were continuing between concerned officials of both the countries.

The sources said that once the technical details were finalized, the question of financial package will be discussed by both sides. Pakistan needs the planes for its air force following the non-delivery of the F-16s by the United States in view of the restrictions imposed under the Pressler Amendment since 1990, although Pakistan had paid 658 million dollars for their purchase to Washington.

Asked about the price of the Mirage 2000-5 aircraft the sources disclosed that it depends on the type of weapons to be fitted on these planes.

Admiral Bereau hosted a reception on-board the French naval logistics support vessel 'Somme' on Tuesday night which was attended by diplomats, elite of the city, offices of Pakistan and French navies and Consul General of France in Karachi Maurice Costes.

Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka: Further on Naval Clash With Tigers; 5 Boats Destroyed

BK1204023996 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 12 Apr 96

[Unattributed report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Sri Lanka Navy on Tuesday night [9 April] destroyed five boats being used by a group 'tigers' who are believed to have been fleeing from the Jaffna peninsula following the recent military offensive to flush out tiger infiltrators in the area under military control.

Naval crafts, patrolling the waters off Mandativu island detected a small flotilla of LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] boats moving from Puwarasantivu Island, off the Jaffna town, towards the lagoon around 9 p.m. on Tuesday night and engaged them, destroying five, military sources said. The naval troops had confirmed the deaths of four 'tigers' in the encounter.

The rest of the group had escaped with an unknown number of wounded towards the Jaffna lagoon in the remaining boats. There were no casualties amongst the naval troops.

Meanwhile at Jayanthiyaya, about 13 kms Northeast of Welikanda in Polonnaruwa district 'tigers' attacked a military patrol around 5.30 a.m. yesterday. One soldier was killed and three more wounded while an unknown number of tigers too are believed to have been killed and wounded as the soldiers fought back.

Sri Lanka: LTTE Believed Responsible for Explosions in Colombo Harbor

BK1204031596 Hong Kong AFP in English
0217 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, April 12 (AFP) — Blasts rocked Sri Lanka's main harbour here and at least one ship was damaged in the dawn attack on Friday [12 April], residents and port officials said.

Officials said they believed that separatist Tamil Tiger guerrillas may have entered the port area in small boats and fired mortars or rocket propelled grenades with the aim of hitting the navy facility within the Colombo harbour.

"The port is entirely cordoned off and so far no casualties have been evacuated," an AFP photographer at the port gates said by telephone. He said there were reports of at least one ship being hit.

Unconfirmed reports said a boat carrying several suicide bombers of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) was intercepted by the navy, and three attackers were killed but others may have escaped.

The Colombo fire brigade said they were alerted to an incident at the tightly-guarded port which was considered a most likely target of the separatist Tamil Tiger guerrillas.

Residents living four miles away saw smoke going up from the port area while those in Mattakuliya district of Colombo, just outside the harbour said their homes were shaken by the powerful blasts.

"We heard about an incident at the Port but have not been asked to send any units yet because there are fire fighting facilities within the port," a fire brigade spokesman said.

The blasts came as the capital was on alert for possible bomb attacks by the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and on the eve of the Sinhala and Tamil New Year.

Only last week Prime Minister Sirima Bandaranaike opened a new container terminal at the port in a bid to turn Colombo into a main transhipment centre for the South Asian region.

The Colombo port had earlier introduced a series of tight security measures to prevent any Tamil Tiger guerrilla infiltrations to sabotage the facilities or [word indistinct] the country's main harbour.

The latest attack came as most Sri Lankans prepared to celebrate the Sinhala and Tamil New Year and the country observed a national holiday.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga in a New Year message had asked to turn the event into an occasion for national unity and peace.

In January, the LTTE blasted the Central Bank building in downtown Colombo, killing 91 people and wounding some 1,400 others. Since then, the police had issued an alert for a dozen LTTE suicide bombers in Colombo.

Sri Lanka: 4 LTTE Militants, 1 Soldier Killed in Clashes

BK1104125996 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English
1045 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Navy has destroyed five LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] boats in the Jaffna Lagoon. Naval craft detected the boats moving from Poovarasantivu island on Tuesday [9 April] night. At least four terrorists were killed and several others wounded when the Navy attacked. A few boats managed to escape with the casualties. The Operational Headquarters of the Defense Ministry also reports that the LTTE attacked a security forces patrol at Jayantiyaya in the Welikanda area this morning. Troops retaliated and forced the terrorists to retreat. One soldier was killed and three others were wounded in the confrontation.

Sri Lanka: LTTE Dispatch Reports Atrocities of Troops, PLOTE Members

BK1104154696 (Internet) Tamil Eelam News WWW in Tamil 7 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The bodies of the two Tamils who were abducted by the People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam [PLOTE] group two weeks ago have been recovered in Vavuniya. The PLOTE members ruthlessly killed the two Tamils and discarded their mutilated bodies. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] attacked the police station at Chettipalayam in the Batticaloa District last Thursday. There is no report of any damages.

The LTTE launched a Claymore mine attack on the troops proceeding toward Aliavalai locality from Kattaikadu military camp the day before yesterday. Two soldiers were killed and eight others were seriously injured in the attack. Captain Pulendran, Lieutenant Komakan, Valiant Tiger Sivaperuman were martyred from the LTTE side. Our tributes go to those valiant Tigers who completely dedicated themselves in the holy war to defend our motherland.

Frightened by the incessant missile attacks from the Vettilaikerny military camp, people from Thalayadi locality are emigrating to other places. Dreadful missile attacks are being carried out on the entire Vadamarachchi-east area. The Sri Lankan troops deployed in Velikamam carried out missile attacks on the outskirts of Kaitadi around 1100 yesterday morning. A 38-year old woman known as Thiagarasa Rajeswari was injured in these missile attacks. People from that locality are emigrating to other places in large numbers.

Heavy missile attacks were carried out on Vakarai locality in Batticaloa last Wednesday at noon. Following the missile attacks from the Taravaikulam military camp, people from that locality have emigrated to other places.

Trucks carrying essential goods for Wanni locality are still being detained by PLOTE members in Vavuniya. The efforts made by the Government agents proved to be in vain. The matter was also brought to the notice of Chandrananda de Silva, secretary in the Ministry of Defense. He said: I cannot do anything. This is a political issue; therefore, only the president can make a decision.

The federation of various public organizations is making arrangements to organize a mammoth rally to enlighten the international community about the collective appeal made by the Tamil people to the Sri Lankan Government to halt its military action. This rally is to be held in Vadamarachchi and Thenmarachchi areas on 10 April.

A workshop [panimanai] of Tamil Eelam's police department was opened in Nachchikkuda in the Mannar District last Monday. A large number of people attended the opening ceremony. This is the second workshop in the Mannar District.

A model housing colony designed by Karachchi-north welfare organization was opened this morning. The above model housing colony scheme was formulated by the Tamil Rehabilitation Organization and Kandavalai Regional Secretariat.

Thanks.

The Tigers' aspirations: motherland of Tamil Eelam!

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